Lesley Griffiths AS/MS Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee Senedd Cymru

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

30th June 2023

Dear Llyr,

I am writing to inform the Committee of the intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the draft Windsor Framework (Retail Movement Scheme: Public Health, Marketing and Organic Product Standards and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2023.

I have received a letter from the Minister of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Lord Benyon asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulation will extend to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern ireland and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers.

The Regulations will be made in exercise of the powers conferred under paragraph 8C(1) of, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. The SI relates to the implementation of the Windsor Framework, as agreed between the UK and the EU on 27th February 2023

Currently under the Northern Ireland Protocol, agri-food goods produced in and moved to NI are subject to EU animal, plant, public health, marketing, and organics standards. The amendments made to the Northern Ireland Protocol, as set out in the Windsor Framework will, in part, enable the establishment of a Retail Movement Scheme which will enable certain retail goods to move from GB to NI and meet GB public health, marketing and organics standards. Goods will still be required to meet EU standards for animal and plant health, and EU standards that apply to animal by-products.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

The EU will be disapplying the relevant EU legislative instruments for the categories of goods that will be capable of being moved under the retail movement scheme, including legislation that set standards on public health, marketing, and organics for goods in Northern Ireland, and provide the legal basis for enforcing them. However, enforcement powers against EU standards will remain for goods produced in NI. Legislation is therefore required on a domestic basis to ensure that goods moved under the scheme are subject to GB standards, and the relevant authorities in NI are able to enforce against non-compliance with GB standards.

This new Retail Movement Scheme will allow for simplified trading of specified retail goods between GB and NI for scheme members, as per the agreements made with the EU under the Windsor Framework.

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make these Regulations following the Windsor Framework Agreement which was reached by the UK and the EU and announced on 27 February 2023. This will ensure we have a coherent and consistent statute book with the regulations being accessible in a single instrument.

I have written similarly to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee (LJCC).

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd