



Our ref/ein cyf: MA/HIDCC/0895/24

Sarah Murphy MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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19 April 2024

Dear Sarah,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 ('the 2024 regulations').

I have received a letter from the Minister of State for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare, Lord Douglas-Miller, asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulations will extend to England, Scotland, and Wales 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 2 of Annex 6 to, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, and
- paragraph 11A of Schedule 2 to the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011.

The purpose of the 2024 Regulations, in conjunction with a second SI, is to implement the second milestone of the Border Target Operating Model from 28 April 2024. The 2024 Regulations amend the Transitional Staging Period end date from 29th April 2024 to 31 January 2025 so the second stage of the TOM can begin from 30th April 2024.

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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.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It will also amend the Meat Preparations (Amendment and Transitory Modification) (England) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. I have made equivalent provisions for Wales in the Meat Preparations (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2024 which was laid before the Senedd on the 12 April.

We have not yet agreed with the UK and Scottish governments a date for physical checks to begin on imports from Ireland but in any event we have already announced that our facilities will not be ready before spring 2025 so a further extension will be required from the end of January 2025.

The Regulations do not commit Welsh Ministers to adopting any future UK Government position on biosecurity. The Regulations do not diminish or undermine the powers of Welsh Ministers in any way.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for this instrument to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter. This ensures a coherent and consistent statute book with the regulations being accessible in a single instrument. I consider that legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

I have written similarly to Paul Davies MS, the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Climate Change and Rural Affairs