

Proposed Welsh Red Meat Industry LCO Committee

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Evidence from Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales

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Deputy Committee Clerk
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Dear Ms Sargent

Re: Consultation - Proposed Welsh Red Meat Industry LCO Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present evidence to the Proposed Welsh Red Meat Industry LCO Committee.

Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) is the industry-led organisation responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh red meat. HCC's stakeholder representatives implement, on behalf of all Welsh farmers and other key industry participants, a strategic plan to develop profitable and sustainable markets for Welsh red meat to derive benefit for all in the supply chain.

HCC's comments on the questions raised are outlined below.

1 What are your views on the general principle that legislative competence in the area identified in Matter 1.1 be conferred on the Assembly?

The Radcliffe Review of the agricultural and horticultural levy boards in 2005 stated that devolved administrations should have the flexibility to create levy and promotional boards to operate within their own countries in accordance with their own specific needs. In response to the industry-wide consultation in Wales in 2006, it was decided that Wales would retain a separate red meat levy raising body, which should be directly accountable to Welsh Ministers.

This LCO will enable Welsh Ministers to oversee the development, promotion and marketing of the Welsh red meat industry in order to better ensure that the specific needs of the Welsh industry are addressed appropriately, while maintaining full accountability and control at a Welsh level.

HCC are therefore supportive of the principle that legislative competence in this area should be conferred on the Assembly.

2 What are your views on the terms of the proposed Order? For example, is Matter 1.1 too narrowly or broadly drawn?

We are of the view that the terms of the proposed LCO allow for the practical exercise of powers. It is specific enough to justify the transfer of powers to the Assembly.

3 Is it necessary to include interpretations of 'the red meat industry', 'cattle' and 'pigs' in the proposed Order? If so, are the interpretations provided appropriate or should there be any additions or deletions?

We are content that the interpretations of 'the red meat industry', 'cattle', and 'pigs' are appropriate and that there should not be any additions or deletions.

We wish to also utilise this opportunity to highlight the importance of retaining a separate red meat body in Wales to support the industry in development, marketing and promotion. Apart from Welsh Ministers, HCC is also accountable to the industry, both

producers and processors, who pay the levy which enables HCC to carry out its duties. Should this LCO be utilised to confer the levy raising powers to Welsh Ministers, it is essential that this transparent accountability to levy payers remains.

Yours sincerely

Gwyn Howells

Chief Executive

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