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Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Mike.Hedges@senedd.wales

25 January 2021

Dear Mike

The Official Controls (Temporary Measure) (Covid-19) (Amendments) Regulations 2021

The above titled SI is required to continue and reintroduce temporary easements in relation to certain official controls which were introduced in 2020 by the European Commission, in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

The easements will allow for the performance of official controls in compliance with wider social distancing guidelines, and also help deal with staff shortages, which may have occurred as a result of Covid-19.

In relation to Wales, the amendment provides competent authorities with the ability to introduce temporary measures. The SI will be subject to the negative procedure and it is proposed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that it is laid before Parliament on 21 January with a commencement date of 31 January.

I am writing to let you know as these amendments are temporary emergency easements, I give my consent, pursuant to Article 3(2B)(b)(i) of the retained Regulation (EU) 2017/625, to the Secretary of State to make this statutory instrument in relation to Wales.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition and Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language.

Regards

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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.