

Julie James MS

Minister for Climate Change

25 July 2022

Dear Julie

## The Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2022

Thank you for your letter of 28 June in which you notified us of your intention to consent to The Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2022 (the Frequency of Checks Regulations) which were subsequently laid in the UK Parliament on 30 June 2022. We considered your letter at our meeting on 4 July, and then on 11 July, we considered your letter of 5 July in which you confirmed you had given your consent. As mentioned in the debate on the associated Plant Health etc. (Fees) (Amendment) (Wales) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2022, this series of regulations highlights the complexity of law making in Wales following our exit from the EU. We would therefore be grateful if you would address the following questions:

1. What consultation took place with Welsh stakeholders on the Frequency of Checks Regulations and the policy change implemented by them?
2. What, if any, concerns were raised by these stakeholders and how were these addressed?
3. Can you clarify whether these policy changes relate to the plant health common framework and, if so, were they considered through relevant framework processes?
4. Can you clarify whether the Frequency of Checks Regulations come within the scope of the *United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020*?



5. Can you confirm that the Frequency of Checks Regulations result in a divergence from EU standards that were in place at the end of the transition period and explain how any implications of this divergence will be assessed?

I would be grateful to receive a response by 22 August 2022.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

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Chair