



Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

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23 January 2023

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your report on the Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum for the Animals and Animal Health, Feed and Food, Plants and Plant Health (Amendment) Regulations 2022. The above stated Statutory Instrument addresses minor European Union Exit related deficiencies, further deficiencies not anticipated at the time of withdrawal from the EU and ensures the functioning of a GB-wide import regime. It also makes minor amendments to the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964.

Standing Order 30A states that a member of the Government must lay a Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum in relation to any statutory instrument, or a draft statutory instrument, laid before the UK Parliament by UK Ministers which makes provision ("relevant provision") in relation to Wales amending primary legislation within the legislative competence of the Senedd.

The amendments to the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964 meet these criteria and a SICM was laid on the 21 November. I thank the Committee for understanding the reason for the delay in tabling the memorandum and for considering these Regulations and providing its report in a shorter timeframe than is normally provided. I am pleased the Committee is content with substance of the Memorandum.

### Response to the Committee Recommendation

Recommendation 1: The Committee recommended:

The Minister should table a motion under Standing Order 30A.10 to seek the Senedd's agreement to the inclusion of a relevant provision in The Animals and Animal Health, Feed and Food, Plants and Plant Health (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

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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.

Response: Reject

In my view the amendments in these Regulations were neither novel nor contentious. I therefore, did not table a motion for this SICM in line with the position set out in the First Minister's letter of November 2020 and in compliance with the requirements of Standing Order 30A. Furthermore, the Regulations were subsequently made by the Secretary of State on 13 December and came into force on the same date.

However, I recognise the Committee's concerns as regards these processes, in particular I note the recent correspondence from the Committee surrounding clarification of Standing Order 30A. I would, of course, welcome further engagement on any such clarification or review of Standing Order 30A.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L' and 'G'.

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