

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our reference: LG/1103/23

Darren Millar MS
Temporary Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

5th May 2023

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March, regarding organic regulations.

The Welsh Government is working with the other Governments of Great Britain to reform its organic regulations. Meanwhile, the UK Government is negotiating Great Britain's organic equivalence with the EU. The success of the negotiations with the EU is not dependent on whether the reform of organics regulations is completed beforehand.

Whilst the EU has modified its organic regulations since the UK left the EU, the UK Government is confident our domestic organics legislation, as retained following EU Exit, reaches the standards the EU consider acceptable for an equivalence arrangement to be agreed. These negotiations are likely to be completed in the Autumn of this year and, therefore, should not cause additional disruption to trade in organic products.

As organic products do not have a distinct customs code, there is no data available to accurately measure the amount or value of organic produce exported from Wales.

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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.

The Governments of Great Britain are planning to develop future organic regulations based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Organic Production. While a principal objective when drafting future regulations will be to maintain equivalence with the EU and other organic standards around the world, this is unlikely to mean mirroring all EU standards. Other objectives, such as strengthening the fidelity of regulations to organic principles, will likely mean organic regulations in Great Britain differ in some respects from EU organic regulations. The complexity of reviewing and strengthening organic regulations across all sectors means the development of new standards is likely to take years rather than months.

The Welsh Government will continue to work closely with DEFRA and the Scottish Government to ensure the interests of Welsh organic producers and consumers are reflected in the development of new legislation.

Regards,

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'.

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