

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

Ein cyf/Our ref: LG/PO/230/23

Paul Davies MS
Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

4th July 2023

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2023, regarding forage maize seed treatments and including correspondence from Dr Julian Little on the issue.

Prior to EU exit, pesticides legislation allowed for seed treated with a plant protection product to be imported, marketed and used in the UK as long as it had been authorised in at least one other Member State. After EU exit, transitional arrangements were put in place to continue the import and use of seeds treated in the EU. This was to provide continuity for seed users and give industry the opportunity to apply for the relevant authorisations in Great Britain.

This three-year transitional period expires on 31 December 2023. From 1 January 2024, all plant protection product seed treatments must be authorised for use in Great Britain. Over the transitional period the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has met with industry to highlight the actions they need to take to enable these seed treatments to continue to be available from 1 January 2024.

I acknowledge the concerns farmers and growers have with the end of the transitional period is approaching. My officials are in contact with their counterparts in HSE and DEFRA to monitor the impact of this change. Applications for authorisations must come from plant protection product companies to be assessed for use in Great Britain. I would advise farmers, growers and other seed users to engage with their suppliers and representatives. Officials in HSE are continuing to work collaboratively with industry and provide advice on regulatory avenues for different products.

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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.

I hope this information is useful to the Committee

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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