



Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru
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10 January 2024

Dear Paul

The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024

I am writing to inform the Committee that I have given my consent to the Minister of State for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare to lay the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024.

I have laid a Written Statement which can be found at:
<https://senedd.wales/media/oemk4plv/ws-ld16248-e.pdf>

These Regulations have been made using powers in the

1. paragraph 11A of Schedule 2 to the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011;
2. Articles 144(6) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 6 to the Official Controls Regulations (EU) 2017/625 and

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make these Regulations following the publication of the Border Target Operating Model (TOM). This statutory instrument will be the first piece of legislation to implement the first milestone of the TOM from 31 January 2024. The purpose of the SI is to introduce health certification on imports of medium risk animal products, plants, plant products, and high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin from the European Union. This change includes an amendment to the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Wales) Regulations 2011. It will also remove the pre-notification exemption for goods from the island of Ireland for medium risk animal products, plants, and plant 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.

Additionally, it will amend the Transitional Staging Period (TSP) end date, from 31 January 2024 to 29th April 2024 so that the second stage of the TOM can begin from 30th April 2024. We have not yet agreed a date for physical checks to begin on imports from Ireland, so I anticipate that a further TSP extension will be required from the end of April until a date to be agreed.

The Statutory Instrument is subject to the negative procedure and was laid before Parliament on 9 January 2024 and will come into force on 30 January 2024.

I would like to reassure this Committee that while it is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence, in certain circumstances there are benefits in working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. The change to the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Wales) Regulations 2011 mirrors that made by the Secretary of State to the equivalent Scottish and English Regulations, to create a single, accessible and bilingual amendment. On this occasion, therefore, I have given my consent to these Regulations for reasons of efficiency and expediency, and cross-UK coordination and consistency.

I regret it was not possible to give the Committee advance notice as the statutory instrument was received during recess.

I am writing in similar terms to Huw Irranca Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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