

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

Huw Irranca-Davies MS Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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12 February 2024

Dear Huw

I am writing to inform the Committee of the intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the draft Windsor Framework (Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals) Regulations 2024.

I received a letter from the Minister of State for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Lord Benyon on 16 October 2023, asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulations will extend to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (NI) and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers.

The 2024 Regulations relate to the implementation of the Windsor Framework, as agreed between the UK and the EU on 27th February 2023 and are being made under Section 8C(1) and (2) of, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

Currently under the Northern Ireland Protocol, all non-commercial movement of pets from GB to NI became subject to full EU third country requirements on 1 January 2021 following the end of the Transition Period. These requirements are established by Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals ("The EU Pets scheme").

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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 Windsor Framework amends the Northern Ireland Protocol and puts in place a new, sustainable, and durable framework for the movement of pets for non-commercial reasons. The 2024 Regulations set out the terms for pets to be able to move via the Northern Ireland Pet Travel Scheme. They also set out that the pet owner will need to apply for a pet travel document which is valid for the lifetime of the pet animal. When applying for the document, pet owners will need to supply specific information to the relevant competent authority, including a requirement that all dogs, cats and ferrets (including those based in NI) must be microchipped. Pet owners (or those travelling with a pet animal) will be required to make a declaration that the pet animal will not subsequently be moved into the EU.

No requirements beyond the need for a microchip will be placed on NI pet owners, who will be able to travel to and from GB without the need for a pet travel document or any other process.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for this instrument to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter. This ensures a coherent and consistent statute book with the regulations being accessible in a single instrument. I consider that legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

I have written similarly to Llyr Gruffydd MS, the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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