



Our ref/ein cyf: MA/HIDCC/5032/24

Sarah Murphy MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

30 April 2024

Dear Sarah,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Movement of Goods (Northern Ireland to Great Britain) (Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.) (Transitory Provision and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024 ('the 2024 regulations').

We have received a letter from the Rt Hon Lord Benyon, the then Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs, asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulations will extend to England, Scotland, and Wales and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers.

The Regulations will be made in exercise of the powers conferred under:

- Section 8C(1) of, and paragraph 21(a) of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

The purpose of the 2024 Regulations is to preserve and sharpen the benefits of unfettered market access for qualifying Northern Ireland goods by applying the regime of sanitary and phytosanitary ("SPS") controls to non-qualifying goods entering Great Britain ("GB") from Northern Ireland ("NI"), as applied to European Union ("EU") / European Economic Area ("EEA") goods under the Transitional Staging Period. The 2024 Regulations make consequential amendments to the qualifying Northern Ireland goods definition referenced in existing legislation.

The Regulations do not commit Welsh Ministers to adopting any future UK Government position on biosecurity. The Regulations do not diminish or undermine the powers of Welsh Ministers in any way.

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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.

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 Paul Davies MS, the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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