



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/5128/24

Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Paul.davies@senedd.wales

21 May 2024

Dear Paul,

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024

I am writing to inform you of my intention to consent to the UK Government making The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024 (“the Regulations”).

The Regulations will be made under Clause 2(1) and Clause 3(3) of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act (“the Act”), which received Royal Assent on 20 May.

The Act makes provisions to prohibit the export of cattle and other bovine animals, sheep, goats, pigs or wild boar, and horses or other equine animals (“relevant livestock”) for slaughter, including fattening for subsequent slaughter. Where exporting is sending or attempted sending from Great Britain to anywhere outside the British Islands or the transportation or attempted transportation, or the organising or attempting to organise the transport of relevant livestock from or through Great Britain to anywhere outside the British Islands.

The Act engages the Legislative Consent process outlined in Standing Order 29. A Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM), for the provisions which fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd, was laid by Lesley Griffiths MS, former Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, on 19 December. The LCM recommended that the Senedd consent to the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill (“the Bill”). The Minister for Rural Affairs laid a Legislative Consent Motion to propose that the Senedd agrees that provisions in the Bill, in so far as they fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd, should be considered by the UK Parliament. There was a plenary debate on the Legislative Consent Motion on 12 March. The motion was agreed.

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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 Regulations establish enforcement powers, offences, and penalties relating to the prohibition on the export of relevant livestock for slaughter.

It is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits to working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, I am giving my consent to the UK Government to make the Regulations. This approach will ensure the Regulations are introduced simultaneously across England, Wales and Scotland, and for coherent, centrally coordinated communications with stakeholders. Livestock transport journeys can start and travel through the different countries of Great Britain to reach destination. Separate regulations, or any divergence in the coming into force of regulations, across Great Britain could lead to complexity, inconsistencies and administrative burden for industry and enforcement agencies.

Welsh Government officials have a good working relationship with their Defra counterparts and will continue to work with them and the Scottish Government to strengthen the protection of animal welfare during transport, maintaining positive and constructive intergovernmental relations.

The anticipated laying date of the Regulations before the UK Parliament, using the draft affirmative procedure, is 5 June.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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