

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC0636/25

Andrew RT Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

25 March 2025

Dear Andrew,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 ("the 2025 Regulations").

We have received a letter from Baroness Hayman the Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health, and Welfare, 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:

- Article 144(6) of, and paragraph 2 of Annex 6 to, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('the OCR').

The purpose of 2025 Regulation is to extend the implementation period of import checks on certain sanitary and phytosanitary ('SPS') goods entering Great Britain ('GB') from certain countries, until 31 January 2027.

The 2025 Regulations will extend the transitional staging period from 1st July 2025 to 31 January 2027. This extension will delay the imposition of checks on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) goods imported from the EU to GB. This instrument also extends an easement which delays the requirement for import checks (that applies to rest of the world countries) in respect of plants, plant products, or other objects (such as machinery and vehicles which have been used for agricultural or forestry purposes) entering GB from the EU, Liechtenstein or Switzerland through a West Coast Port (as listed in the definition of 'relevant port' in regulation 3 of the Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2022) before 31 January 2027, in line with the end of the TSP. The rationale for this extension is to prevent any disruption in trade and to allow sufficient time to transition to a permanent legislative basis for the Border Target Operating Model.

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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 2025 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.

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. 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 Mike Hedges MS, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

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