

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change
and Rural Affairs

3 June 2025

Dear Huw,

The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Amendment) Regulations 2025

Thank you for your letter drawing attention to your written statement [The Official Controls \(Extension of Transitional Periods\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025](#). I note the statement informs the Senedd that you have given consent to the UK Government to make regulations which will “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.” In the statement you explain “this will allow sufficient time to transition to a permanent legislative basis for the BTOM [(Boarder Target Operating Model)].”

These new regulations will defer those checks by a significant amount of time; until well after the Senedd election. You will be aware that the Committee has been following developments around the BTOM with interest since the start of the Sixth Senedd. In the coming weeks, we will consider implications arising from the UK-EU Common Understanding agreement in establishing a Common UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Area through a future SPS Agreement. We are grateful to you for your recent correspondence providing an update to our Committee on intergovernmental SPS discussions.

To help us continue our scrutiny on this area please could you set out:

- A timetable of trade controls that will be introduced during the remainder of the Sixth Senedd;



- To what extent, if any, the Common Understanding agreement requires a change of approach to the BTOM's implementation, including changes to the timetable mentioned above;
- How the governments are working together on the change in approach, if any, required by the Common Understanding agreement;
- What implications there are, if any, for the readiness of Border Control Posts currently under construction;
- The Welsh Government's view on the SPS provisions in the Common Understanding;
- The Welsh Government's view on the specific provisions requiring the Great Britain to dynamically align to EU SPS standards; and
- The Welsh Government's initial analysis of the Common Understanding in relation to movements between Wales and the island of Ireland, including NI-Ireland-Wales movements and vice versa.

I look forward to receiving your response.

I have copied in Delyth Jewell MS, Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, and Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in light of our cross-committee inquiry on the implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Kind regards,



Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

CC: Delyth Jewell MS, Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Mike Hedges MS, Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee