

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/HIDCC/1372/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Andrew RT Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament

9 June 2025

Dear Mike, Andrew,

I am writing to inform the Committee that I have given consent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural affairs to make and lay the Marking of Retail Goods Regulations 2025. The Regulations apply to England and Wales and Scotland.

I regret I was unable to write to your committee to provide notification of my intention to consent to the Regulations as set out in the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement between the Senedd Cymru and the Welsh Government. The final draft of the Regulations were received late last week following intergovernmental discussions.

The Regulations provide a power for the Secretary of State to issue notices to require “not for EU” labelling on specific GB market food and drink products with a requirement to consult with devolved governments before making a decision.

I have laid a Written Statement which can be found [here](#).

These Regulations have been made using powers in:

- Section 8C(1) of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

The purpose of the Regulations is to provide for a contingency power to introduce ‘Not for EU’ labelling for specific food products in Great Britain. This measure would be enacted where the Secretary of State, is satisfied that the supply of certain retail goods to consumers in Northern Ireland is at risk and considers that intervention is necessary to safeguard food supply to the people of Northern Ireland.

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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 possibility of introducing 'Not for EU' labelling for the GB market, is intended to incentivise retailers and manufacturers to make the necessary changes to comply with the labelling requirements for goods moved into Northern Ireland by GB businesses. This would remove any financial incentives for de-listing products in Northern Ireland rather than labelling them, thereby safeguarding the flow of goods to Northern Ireland.

The requirement for labelling would be targeted at specific products rather than the blanket approach the previous UK Government consulted on in February 2024. Small businesses will be exempt from these requirements.

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, in order to adopt a consistent and coherent approach which allows the UK Government to meet its commitments to safeguard the supply of food to Northern Ireland, which the Welsh Government supports, I consider it appropriate to consent to the laying of these Regulations. I understand the Scottish Government has also agreed to consent.

The Regulations are subject to the affirmative procedure and were laid before Parliament on 5 June 2025 with a commencement date which will be subject to the SIs approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

The Regulations can be found [here](#).

Again, I regret that I was unable to provide information to the Committee in advance of the Regulations being laid.

Yours sincerely,

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

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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