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27 December 2013

**Introduction of The Single Common Market Organisation (Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2013**

I am writing to inform you that in order to bring The Single Common Market Organisation (Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2013 into force in Wales, it has become necessary to breach the 21-day rule. These Regulations will be made on 27 December 2013 and will come into force on 1 January 2014.

The new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Single Common Market Organisation (SCMO) Regulation (Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council adopted on 16 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 237/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007) provides common rules for managing agricultural markets, standards for marketing agricultural products and for importing and exporting them to and/or from the European Union. It will revoke and replace Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) ("EU Regulation 1234/2007") from 1 January 2014. It is directly applicable in all EU Member States.

There are a number of Welsh regulations in place which refer to the existing EU Regulation 1234/2007 (as amended). The Welsh Ministers have made statutory instruments which refer to EU Regulation 1234/2007 and which provide entry powers to investigate breaches. Consequently, there is a need to update the domestic regulations that refer to Regulation 1234/2007 in order to ensure that enforcement agencies continue to have appropriate powers of entry and other associated powers.

Parallel Regulations are expected to come into force throughout the UK no later than 1 January 2014. The European SCMO Regulation was published formally on 21 December 2013 in the Official Journal of the European Union. This gave insufficient time to make these Regulations to come into force on 1 January 2014 and also to comply with the 21 day

rule. Due to the tight timescales involved it is necessary that the Statutory Instrument comes into force without complying with the 21 day rule. This will ensure legal certainty and avoid an enforcement gap. No new or extended statutory powers of entry or offences are sought.

An Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared, and laid, together with these Regulations, in the Table Office.

A copy of this letter has been sent to David Melding, Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and to Gareth Williams, Clerk to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Lesley Griffiths AM**  
**Minister for Local Government and Government Business**  
**Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth**