



Ein cyf/Our ref – MA/LG/1405/21

Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

24 March 2021

Dear Llywydd,

**The Meat Preparations (Amendment and Transitory Modification) (Wales) (EU Exit) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (the Regulations)**

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by Schedule 10 paragraph 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, I am notifying you that this statutory instrument comes into force on 30 March, less than 21 days from the date of laying. The Explanatory Memorandum for these Regulations is attached for your information.

The purpose of the Regulations is to continue a temporary suspension of a requirement for meat preparations imported into Wales from establishments situated in European Economic Area (EEA) member States, the Faroe Islands, Greenland or Switzerland, to be deep frozen.

Only very recently, on the 15th of March, the UK Government announced a revised timetable for the phased introductions of import controls arriving from the EEA, the Faroe Islands, Greenland or Switzerland. Given that the current exemption is due to expire on 31 March 2021, this means that the time available for this legislation to come into force is extremely limited. In order to avoid any gap in the suspension of the import condition, thereby preventing the risk of confusion to traders and disruption to trade, it is necessary for the Regulations to come into force on 30 March 2021. If the Regulations do not come into force before 31 March 2021, this would mean that imports of chilled meat preparations would be technically illegal into Wales from 1 April 2021, which would have negative implications for the food supply chain.

England and Scotland are making equivalent instruments to continue the suspension of this import condition, until infrastructure and competent authorities are ready to conduct border checks, in line with the revised phased introduction of import controls on goods arriving from

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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 EEA, the Faroe Islands, Greenland or Switzerland. To ensure continued enforceability with the rest of the UK it has become necessary not to adhere to the 21 day convention.

The Regulations will ensure that a consistent approach is taken across Great Britain towards imports and will prevent disruption to businesses and competent authorities. This approach presents a low biosecurity risk as Wales can currently import these goods from the EEA, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Switzerland. Were we not to have alignment with each other, importers would be faced with a confusing situation.

There has been GB-wide extensive stakeholder engagement with the Agri-Food industry and with delivery partners with responsibilities over SPS border controls (such as local border authorities, the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Foods Standards Agency), since January 2021. Given that the objective of the Regulations is to retain the current freedom of importing chilled meat preparations, it was not considered necessary to carry out a consultation or a Regulatory Impact Assessment. However, an Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

A copy of this letter goes to Mick Antoniw MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd  
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd