These Regulations are proposed to be made by the UK Government under section 8 of, and paragraph 21(b) of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

This SI makes amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in order to address deficiencies arising from the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union.

After exit day:

a. Persons with veterinary qualifications obtained in the EEA who wish to register and practice in the UK will need to have a qualification that satisfies the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) that they have the requisite knowledge or skill, or successfully pass a statutory examination set by the RCVS.
b. Powers of entry under section 29 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 will continue to be available in England and Wales, ensuring inspectors can continue to assess compliance with certain regulations made under section 12 of that Act.

A Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum was laid because powers of entry under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 are devolved.

(The changes made in respect of recognising the veterinary qualifications obtained in the EEA are not devolved, therefore the Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum does not cover those changes.)

Legal Advisers agree with the statement laid by the Welsh Government dated 19 December 2018 regarding the effect of these Regulations.

The above summary and the content of the Explanatory Memorandum to these Regulations confirm their effect and the extent to which these Regulations would enact new policy in devolved areas. Legal Advisers do not consider that any significant issues arise under paragraph 8 of the Memorandum on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and the Establishment of Common Frameworks in relation to these Regulations.

Legal Advisers have not identified any legal reason to seek a consent motion under Standing Order 30A.10 in relation to these Regulations.