



Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer
National Assembly for Wales

25 July 2019

Dear Llywydd,

The Plant Health (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2019

In accordance with guidance I am notifying you that section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the Government of Wales Act 2006, which provides the rule that statutory instruments come into force at least 21 days from the date of laying, will be breached for the introduction of the Plant Health (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2019. The Explanatory Memorandum is attached for your information.

Following the recent Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) outbreaks in Wales the Order will provide greater control over the import of potentially high risk oak plants from countries where the OPM is widespread. To ensure we can take immediate action to control the risk of further imports and to align our controls with the rest of Great Britain it has become necessary to breach the 21 day rule. The current controls for the pest must be strengthened following a number of recent OPM findings in England and Wales.

Scotland laid their equivalent Statutory Instrument on the 12th July and it came into force on the 16th of July. England laid their equivalent Statutory Instrument on the 15th July and it came into force on the same day. A similar statutory instrument, amending the Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 as it applies to Wales, came into force on 19 July 2019.

Breaching the 21 day rule will allow the Order to come into force quickly to increase biosecurity and align the legislation in Wales with the rest of Great Britain. A breach of the 21 day rule is therefore thought necessary and justifiable in this case.

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

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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.

A copy of this letter goes to Mick Antoniw AM, Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd