



Huw Irranca Davies MS  
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

15 December 2022

Dear Huw

## Border Controls

The Committee will be aware that the UK Government announced a review of border controls in April 2022, with an intention to publish a draft *Target Operating Model* in autumn 2022 for implementation by the end of 2023. Although aspects of the border regime are devolved, Welsh Government would prefer to see coherent and consistent rules which respect our high standards of biosecurity and Welsh Government officials have been working with their counterparts in the other UK administrations. However, the *Target Operating Model* is not yet finalised and agreed by ministers.

I have today informed the Senedd in a written statement [Written Statement: Border Controls Regulations | GOV.WALES](#) that I intend to lay **The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2022** (“the 2022 Regulations”) before the Christmas recess. This SI further extending the transitional staging period will allow the Welsh Government to continue to work with other UK administrations to finalise the borders *Target Operating Model*, to ensure a coherent, effective, and efficient system of controls can be implemented.

In addition to this extension, we proposed introducing pre-notification for certain products imported to Wales from the Republic of Ireland. I have listened carefully to the feedback, particularly the concerns voiced by stakeholders regarding the available time before 1 January 2023 to prepare. I have therefore decided to postpone the introduction of prenotification on these categories of SPS goods until later in 2023.

Our objective is for all EU imports to be subject to the same pre-notification requirements, so we receive the same vital information as elsewhere in Great Britain. This will safeguard our biosecurity, maintain food safety standards, and ensure traceability of products entering the country. It will also help us to plan border controls infrastructure and operations, which in turn will help to ensure smooth implementation of border controls in Wales.

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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.

I have had constructive discussions in recent weeks with the UK Government on this topic and I will seek to agree a date with them for the introduction of pre-notification for goods imported from Ireland.

I would like to confirm that date as soon as possible in the New Year to give plenty of notice to businesses of any future changes. However, I have been clear with the UK Government that this remains a devolved issue and if necessary the Welsh Government will act independently to safeguard our biosecurity and the health of people, animals and plants in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy