



Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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21st February 2023

Dear Paul.

The Approved Country Lists (Animals and Animal Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2023

I wish to inform the Committee that I am giving consent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make the Approved Country Lists (Animals and Animal Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

The Regulations will be made under powers conferred by regulations 6, 7 and 9 of the Trade in Animals and Animal Products (Legislative Functions) and Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

The purpose of the Regulations is to correct errors in the lists of animals and animal products so that Switzerland and Iceland are legally approved to export to Great Britain. The errors mean that Switzerland and Iceland currently lack the appropriate legal basis to export certain commodities to Wales for which they should be approved. These errors must be rectified to ensure that trade from Switzerland and Iceland can continue without disruption. It also removes a transit approval for Russia that had been redundant since the end of the Transition Period. None of these corrections are changes in policy and they are required to maintain the status quo.

I would like to reassure this Committee it is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits in working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, therefore, I am giving my consent to these Regulations for reasons of efficiency and expediency, and cross-government coordination and consistency.

The Regulations will be laid before the UK Parliament on 28 February 2023 using the negative procedure, and will come into force on 21 March 2023.

I have also written to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Huw Irranca-Davies MS.

Regards,

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

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd