

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

19th October 2023

Dear Huw,

The Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023

I refer to my letter to you of 5 September. I am writing to inform the Committee I have given my consent to the Secretary of State to lay the Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 in relation to Wales.

This SI amends retained Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Persistent Organic Pollutants (recast) (the "POPs Regulation"). The amendment will add perfluorohexane sulfonic acid ("PFHxS"), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds to the list of substances of which the manufacturing, placing on the market and use are prohibited under the POPs Regulation. It also sets limit values for PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds occurring as an unintentional trace contaminant in substances, mixtures and articles.

The purpose of the Regulations is to implement international obligations, which are placed on the UK by changes to the Stockholm Convention on POPs coming into force on 16 November.

This SI has been made under Articles 15(1) and 18(1) of the POPs Regulation and is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure. The SI was made and laid before the UK Parliament on 16 October 2023, with an envisaged commencement date of 16 November 2023.

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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 Welsh Government's general principle is the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales. On this occasion, it is considered appropriate for the substance of the amendments to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government on this matter. The POPs Regulation, which is being amended, is a GB-wide Regulation, so any amendments to it could not be made in the Welsh language.

Making these amendments through a GB-wide amending SI ensures a coherent and consistent statute book, with the regulations being accessible in a single instrument. I consider that legislating separately for Wales would not be the most appropriate way to give effect to necessary changes nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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