

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
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

27th November 2023

Dear Huw.

Thank you for your letter of 23 November regarding The Plant Health etc. (Miscellaneous Fees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2023.

I am grateful to the Committee for their careful consideration of these Regulations. I agree it is important the Regulations are clear, accessible and operable. To this end, I have decided to withdraw these Regulations ahead of their scheduled debate on 28 November 2023.

I intend to lay revised Regulations to achieve the same policy intent. These Regulations will also still seek to extend or apply the Movement Assistance Scheme but will address the specific points raised by the Committee.

In particular, the new Regulations will provide clarity that regulations 3(5C) and 3(5D) no longer operate in law, and restate the provisions as new sections 3(5E) and 3(5F)

As a result of this amendment, the new draft regulations will not seek to make retrospective provision in relation to Regulation 3(5C) of the Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) (Wales) Regulations 2019. This means there will be no retrospective exemption from fees for certain movements of wood, wood products, isolated bark or used forestry machinery. Instead, the relevant fee exemption will now be in place from 1 January 2024 until 30 June 2025. Regrettably, this means there will be no fee exemption in place for certain movements of certain regulated material for 2023 due to the provision not being extended previously. However, as previously communicated, the potential for businesses to be adversely affected by this is considered to be low-risk.

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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.

In order to ensure there is no gap in provision of fee exemptions in relation to the movement of Regulated material under the Plant Health etc. (Fees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2018, these Regulations need to come into force by 31 December 2023. To enable this to happen, I would be grateful if the Committee would expedite scrutiny of the revised Regulations ahead of the final plenary session of the year on 12 December. It is my intention the new Regulations are debated during this session.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee for its diligent consideration of these Regulations.

Regards,

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

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