

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig Deputy First Minister and Cabinet
Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/10547/24

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

10 January 2025

Dear Mike,

I refer to my letter to you of 23 December 2024. I wish to inform the Committee I have given my consent to the Secretary of State to make the Official Controls (Plant Health) and Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2025 ('the Regulations'). I have laid a Written Statement which can be found [here](#).

The Regulations apply to Wales, England and Scotland. The Regulations are subject to the negative procedure and were laid before Parliament on 8 January 2025 with a commencement date of 30 January 2025.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made by the Welsh Ministers, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for the Regulations to be made by the Secretary of State. The Regulations relate to a devolved area, however, they impact on the biosecurity of Wales, England and Scotland which has traditionally been approached as a joint concern. Plant pests and diseases have no respect for the borders between countries. Much of the Regulations relate to the importation of plants and plant products. Most of these goods which enter Wales come through English ports. Introducing separate regulations in Wales, England and Scotland may cause an additional burden on the Animal and Plant Health Agency, business, traders and growers. Regulating on a Wales, England and Scotland basis assists those stakeholders who must comply with the requirements within the legislation to maintain our biosecurity.

There is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter and the Regulations amend legislation that was not made bilingually.

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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 written similarly to Llŷr Gruffyd MS, the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca Davies'.

Huw Irranca Davies AS/MS

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Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs