

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/1629/25

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

17 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you of my intention to provide consent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make regulations on behalf of Wales in an area of devolved competence, in line with the powers granted to her to do so in Article 38a(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

The Organic Production (Amendment) Regulations 2025 are required to introduce new expiry dates for three organic derogations. These derogations currently apply for the use of non-organic pullets (young chickens) in organic egg production, for the use of non-organic gellan gum in organic production and for the inclusion of up to 5% non-organic protein feed for pigs and poultry. The proposed SI will extend these derogations until 31 December 2026.

Extending the derogations until 31 December 2026 will provide certainty and stability given the current economic picture, reduce potential financial impact for producers and operators who may be forced to make interim structural changes (pullets), and the financial and administrative burden for businesses for repeated derogation requests (gellan gum).

These derogations will allow organic production to continue uninterrupted while the market develops.

Though Welsh Ministers have the powers to make regulations in this area, it is important to avoid unnecessary discrepancies between Wales, Scotland and England in technical

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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.

regulations due to the interconnected nature of our agricultural markets. The proposed SI intends to extend the expiry date of regulations that are already in place, rather than creating any new policy, and as such there will be no practical change to the status quo. The SI is an extension of previous regulations, which were made using the same powers at a Great-Britain level. The Organic Production Framework provides a governance structure through which the Welsh Government has worked with the UK Government on the development of regulations in this area.

The SI will be subject to the made affirmative procedure, and it is proposed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) that it is laid before Parliament on 22 October 2025. Welsh Government officials were consulted regularly by colleagues DEFRA throughout the development of these regulations and will continue to work closely with their counterparts to oversee the delivery of the SI.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

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