

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

Mike Hedges MS Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

11 December 2025

Dear Mike,

The REACH (Amendment) Regulations 2026

I wish to inform the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government laying and making the REACH (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (“the Regulations”).

The Regulations will be made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 68(1), 73(2) and 132A of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)(a) (“UK REACH”). They will apply in relation to England, Scotland and Wales and pursuant to Article 69(1) are subject to the negative procedure. They are to be laid before Parliament on 2 March 2026 and will come into force on 1 April 2026. The Regulations seek to legislate in an area of Senedd competence.

Article 4A(3) provides that the Secretary of State must seek the consent of the Welsh Ministers where the exercise of the function is within Senedd competence. This includes where the exercise of that function also relates to a part of Great Britain other than Wales i.e. it applies when the exercise of the function relates to Wales and other parts of Great Britain.

Pursuant to the powers within UK REACH, in particular Articles 68 and 73, while the consent of the Welsh Ministers is required to make legislation that applies in relation to Wales the Welsh Ministers themselves do not have a regulation-making power. Therefore, these regulations could not be made by the Welsh Ministers.

Baroness Hayman of Ullock wrote to me on the 27 October 2025, requesting the Welsh Ministers’ consent to the 2026 Regulations. A similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers. I plan to provide my formal consent to Baroness Hayman of Ullock on 12 December 2025, unless the committee raises any concerns before that date.

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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.

Summary of the 2026 Regulations

The Regulations amend Annex XVII of UK REACH, introducing new restrictions on the use and placing on the market of ammunition containing lead and its compounds. These changes align UK law with the latest scientific evidence and policy commitments to reduce environmental and health risks associated with lead in shooting activities.

The Regulations amend Annex XVII to add new entries and requirements for projectiles containing lead, including shot and other types of ammunition. The amendments set concentration limits for lead in projectiles and establish phase-out dates for their use at outdoor shooting ranges and in other contexts. Exemptions are provided for air weapons, elite athletes, certain shooting disciplines, and specific professional uses such as police, military, and technical testing.

Additional provisions require outdoor shooting ranges to implement risk reduction measures and maintain documentation for enforcement authorities. Labelling requirements are introduced for certain projectiles containing lead, and suppliers must keep records of sales to elite athletes. The Regulations also set out notification and record-keeping obligations for both users and suppliers.

Each category of projectile and use is assigned a specific date by which its use or placing on the market is prohibited, with transitional arrangements for compliance. The overall aim is to reduce the risks posed by lead in ammunition to wildlife, livestock, soil, water, and public health, while providing proportionate exemptions for specific users and uses.

Enforcement of these Regulations, in relation to Wales, will sit with Natural Resources Wales.

Welsh Government Position

The Welsh Government's general principle is that subordinate legislation in devolved areas should be enacted by the Welsh Ministers where there is executive competence.

On this occasion, I consider it appropriate for the UK Government's amendments to apply to Wales, as the Welsh Ministers do not have the necessary powers to amend Annex XVII of UK REACH. In addition, timely implementation will ensure compliance with our environmental and public health commitments and maintain regulatory consistency across the UK.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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