



Mick Antoniw MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

22 February 2021

Dear Mick,

The Approved Country Lists (Animals and Animal Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The above named Statutory Instrument (SI) amends several pieces of retained EU law, using powers in the Trade in Animals and Animal Products (Legislative Functions) and Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/1225). It corrects deficiencies that are present in European Union law and which were retained through the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

The amendments make provision for Iceland to export animal products to Great Britain to ensure that trade from Iceland can continue with minimal disruption from 1 April 2021 when Export Health Certificates (EHCs) are required for Products of Animal Origin (POAO). If Iceland is not listed as approved to export POAO by 1 April, trade in fishery and aquaculture products from Iceland is likely to be disrupted. Northern Ireland will remain aligned with European Union import legislation under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

I am writing to let you know I give my consent to the Secretary of State to make this SI in relation to Wales. I understand the SI will be laid before the Houses of Parliament on 3 March to come into force on 28 March. The SI will be subject to the negative procedure.

In these exceptional circumstances when we are required to consider and correct an unprecedented volume of legislation within a tight timeframe and with finite resources, the Welsh Government's general principal is that it appropriate that we ask the UK Government to legislate on our behalf in a large number of statutory instruments. Should consent be withheld, these corrections will need to be made through legislation made by the Welsh Government. There is insufficient time and resources to be able to draft and lay such regulations to come into force before the end of 2021.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition,
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd and Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural
Affairs Committee.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs