



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
BY
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE **The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019**

DATE **19 December 2018**

BY **Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs**

The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (the “2019 Regulations”)

Domestic legislation

Primary

- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966
- The Animal Welfare Act 2006

Any impact the SI may have on the Assembly’s legislative competence and/or the Welsh Ministers’ executive competence

No functions are being transferred by this instrument.

The purpose of the amendments

The purpose of the SI (Affirmative procedure) is to remove the existing legislative provisions namely, the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2015 which transposed Directives 2005/36EC and 2013/55/EU - known as the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) Directive - from the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. The regulation of veterinary surgeons is a reserved matter under section G1 of Part 2 of Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The profession of Veterinary Surgeons is ‘regulated ‘under regulation 35 of the MRPQ Regulations. In order to provide a veterinary surgeons service, individuals must be able to evidence they are sufficiently competent and accredited by a professional body.

A separate instrument, namely, the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 amends the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualification) Regulations 2015 so that vets will not be in scope of the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2015.

Instead, the 2019 Regulations will amend the 1966 Act so as to remove the current distinction between EU/EEA and non EU/EEA nationals. The registration of veterinary surgeons will continue to be regulated on a GB basis under the 1966 Act. The amendments will permit a holder of non-UK veterinary surgeon qualification to register in the UK.

In relation to the Animal Welfare Act 2006, animal health and welfare is devolved. The amendments to section 29 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 make corrections so that the law is operable after the exit date by referring to “retained EU law” instead of the current reference to “implementation of an “EU obligation.

The 2019 Regulations and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum, setting out the effect of amendments is available here: <https://beta.parliament.uk/work-packages/wn36fV6A>

Why consent was given

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make these corrections in relation to, and on behalf of, Wales for reasons of efficiency, expediency and due to the technical nature of the amendments. The amendments have been considered fully; and there is no divergence in policy. These amendments are to ensure that the statute book remains functional following the UK’s exit from the EU.

A Statutory Instrument Consent Memorandum has also been laid in the National Assembly in respect of the amendments to The Animal Welfare Act 2006