



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE**            **The Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Periods)  
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024**

**DATE**            **10 January 2024**

**BY**                **Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

Members of the Senedd will wish to be aware that I have given consent to the Minister of State for Biosecurity, Marine, and Rural Affairs to exercise a subordinate legislation-making power in a devolved area in relation to Wales.

The above titled Statutory Instrument (SI) was laid before the UK Parliament by the Secretary of State on 9 January 2024 in exercise of powers conferred by:

1. paragraph 11A of Schedule 2 to the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011;
2. Articles 144(6) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 6 to, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products;

The SI will be the first piece of legislation to implement the first milestone of the Border Target Operating Model (TOM) from 31 January 2024. The purpose of the SI is to introduce health certification on imports of medium risk animal products, plants, plant products, and high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin from the European Union. It will also remove the pre-notification exemption for goods from the island of Ireland for medium risk animal products, plants, and plant products. Additionally, it will amend the Transitional Staging Period (TSP) end date, from 31 January 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 so that the second stage of the TOM can begin from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We have not yet agreed a date for physical checks to begin on imports from Ireland, so I anticipate that a further TSP extension will be required from the end of April until a date to be agreed.

The Regulations were laid before the UK Parliament on 9 January 2024 and will come into force on 30 January 2024.

## **Impact the instrument may have on the Senedd's legislative competence and/or the Welsh Ministers' executive competence:**

The 2024 Regulations result from the agreement on the Border Target Operating Model as published in August 2023. The 2024 Regulations do not commit Welsh Ministers to adopting any future UK Government position on biosecurity.

The Regulations do not diminish or undermine the powers of Welsh Ministers in any way, and they do not create, amend or remove any functions conferred on the Welsh Ministers.

I would like to reassure the Senedd it is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits in working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, I have given my consent to these Regulations for reasons of efficiency and expediency in future policy change and adherence to international obligations, cross-UK coordination, and consistency.

## **The purpose of the instrument**

The purpose of the 2024 Regulations is to protect biosecurity, ensure food safety and support trade, by introducing the first milestone of Border Target Operating Model agreed by all administrations in Great Britain.

The Regulations and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum, setting out the detail of the provenance, purpose and effect of the 2024 Regulations are available here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/20/made>

## **Why consent has been given**

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make this instrument as a result of the agreement on the Border Target Operating Model between the three administrations in Great Britain to introduce a coherent and consistent sanitary and phytosanitary regime for goods imported into Great Britain to protect biosecurity and ensure food safety standards are maintained.