

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Tir Gofal and Organic Farming (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 1999

Background

These Regulations make amendments to two sets of existing Regulations, ie the Regulations establishing the Tir Gofal payment scheme and the Regulations establishing the Organic Farming payment scheme.

The amendments to the Tir Gofal scheme include a general power for additional matters to be provided for in Tir Gofal agreements, impose an obligation on the farmer to maintain records, and make the record keeping requirement and the existing obligation to permit entry on to land, enforceable by the withholding of aid payments.

The amendments to the Organic Farming scheme effectively close the scheme from 4th December although applications submitted up to that date but not yet accepted may still be considered.

The termination of the organic farming scheme is in compliance with EC requirements but regulations providing for a new scheme in accordance with the Rural Development Plan will be prepared in the New Year.

Standing Order 11.5

No points have been identified as matters in respect of which the Assembly is invited to pay special attention.

General Observations

There are some very minor points which it may be appropriate to draw to the attention of the Assembly.

Explanatory Note

This would be easier to read if the second paragraph was split into two, so that the second half dealing with the Organic Farming Regulations became a separate paragraph.

In referring to the Organic Farming Regulations, sub-paragraph (a) could usefully have indicated that the substantive requirements referred to remain, and that it is only the requirement for these matters to be satisfied at the time of application which has been relaxed.

Date of Making

Since these Regulations have already been made, the date of making (both at the head of the Regulations and at the end) should be completed on the copy submitted to the Assembly.

Recital of Powers

Rheoliadau is misspelt

Footnotes

Whilst the word processor can only produce footnotes in the format presently submitted, they should be in dual column on the printed version.

Regulation 1(2)

Strictly speaking this is not needed. Since the main Regulations only apply to Wales the amendments cannot have any wider effect. Nevertheless it is accepted that this provision usefully serves to emphasise the point.

Mike German

Chair, Legislation Committee

December 1999