

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS AND TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (AMENDMENT) (NORTHERN IRELAND) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS 2019

2019 No. [XXXX]

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is laid before Parliament by Act.
- 1.2 This memorandum contains information for the Sifting Committees.

2. Purpose of the instrument

- 2.1 The purpose of this instrument is to ensure that the Mechanically Recovered Meat (Export Prohibition) Order (Northern Ireland) 1995, the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 continue to be operable in Northern Ireland after the UK leaves the EU.
- 2.2 The existing legislation applies and enforces rules regarding animal by-products not intended for human consumption and lays down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).
- 2.3 This instrument will introduce amendments using correcting powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 to address operability deficiencies in the existing legislation. No substantive policy changes will be made by this instrument.

Explanations

What did any relevant EU law do before exit day?

- 2.4 The relevant pieces of directly applicable EU legislation (listed in paragraph 2.5 below) were first put in place as a result of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the late 1980s and early 1990s and have been updated frequently over the years to reflect the development and decline of the epidemic. Animal by-products legislation is relevant to TSE controls because scientific evidence has demonstrated that infectivity is concentrated in certain organs which are classified as Specified Risk Material and are destroyed to prevent their entry into the food chain. In addition, the legislation controls the use and disposal of ABPs to protect public and animal health against the spread of other diseases.
- 2.5 The relevant directly applicable EU legislation is as follows:
 - (i) Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council lays down the rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain TSEs, including BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep and goats;
 - (ii) Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council lays down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption; and

(iii) Commission Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 implements the detailed technical requirements for Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009.

Why is it being changed?

- 2.6 The technical changes made by the instrument are necessary to ensure that Northern Ireland legislation applying and enforcing the EU legislation listed in paragraph 2.5 continues to operate effectively.

What will it now do?

- 2.7 This instrument will address deficiencies in domestic Northern Ireland legislation arising from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and ensure that it continues to be operable after the UK leaves the EU.

3. Matters of special interest to Parliament

Matters of special interest to the Sifting Committees

- 3.1 This instrument is being laid for sifting by the Sifting Committees.

Matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business (English Votes for English Laws)

- 3.2 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure there are no matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business at this stage.

4. Extent and Territorial Application

- 4.1 The territorial extent of this instrument is Northern Ireland.
4.2 The territorial application of this instrument is Northern Ireland.

5. European Convention on Human Rights

- 5.1 As this instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

6. Legislative Context

- 6.1 Section 8(1) of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 provides that a Minister of the Crown may by regulations make such provision as the Minister considers appropriate to prevent, remedy or mitigate any failure of retained EU law to operate effectively or any other deficiency in retained EU law arising from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. This instrument is made in exercise of these powers.
6.2 In addition to this instrument, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will also introduce other instruments as part of the EU Exit process which interact with the legislation amended by this instrument.

7. Policy background

What is being done and why?

- 7.1 This instrument applies to rules regarding animal by-products not intended for human consumption, and the prevention, control and eradication of TSE, which are transferred matters for Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The UK

Government remains committed to restoring devolution in Northern Ireland. This is particularly important in the context of EU Exit where we want devolved Ministers to take the necessary actions to prepare Northern Ireland for EU Exit. We have been considering how to ensure a functioning statute book across the UK including in Northern Ireland for exit day in the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive. With exit day less than one year away, and in the continued absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, the window to prepare Northern Ireland's statute book for EU Exit is narrowing. UK Government Ministers have therefore decided that in the interest of legal certainty in Northern Ireland, the UK Government will take through the necessary secondary legislation at Westminster for Northern Ireland, in close consultation with the Northern Ireland departments. This is one such instrument.

- 7.2 There are some references relating to animal by-products and the prevention, control and eradication of TSE in Northern Ireland legislation that are predicated on EU membership or would be otherwise inappropriate to retain once the UK leaves the EU. This instrument will address these deficiencies to ensure Northern Ireland legislation relating to animal by-products and the prevention, control and eradication of TSE continues to function after the UK leaves the EU.

8. European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 /Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union

- 8.1 This instrument is being made using the power in section 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 in order to address failures of retained EU law to operate effectively or other deficiencies arising from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. In accordance with the requirements of that Act the Minister has made the relevant statements as detailed in Part 2 of the Annex to this Explanatory Memorandum.

9. Consolidation

- 9.1 None.

10. Consultation outcome

- 10.1 The devolved administration in Northern Ireland has been consulted about this instrument. Given its technical nature, no public consultation was considered necessary.

11. Guidance

- 11.1 There is no guidance being issued for this instrument as it makes no more than technical EU Exit amendments.

12. Impact

- 12.1 There is no significant impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.
- 12.2 There is no significant impact on the public sector.
- 12.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because there are no significant impacts on business or on the public sector.

13. Regulating small business

- 13.1 The legislation applies to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

13.2 There is no additional impact on small businesses because this instrument maintains the status quo and does not introduce any policy change.

14. Monitoring & review

14.1 No specific monitoring arrangements are needed.

14.2 As this instrument is made under the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018, no review clause is required.

15. Contact

15.1 Naomi Callaghan at the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: Telephone: 02877442159 or email: Naomi.Callaghan@daera-ni.gov.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

15.2 Jackie Robinson at the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

15.3 Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

Annex

Statements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

Part 1

Table of Statements under the 2018 Act

This table sets out the statements that may be required under the 2018 Act.

Statement	Where the requirement sits	To whom it applies	What it requires
Sifting	Paragraphs 3(3), 3(7) and 17(3) and 17(7) of Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) to make a Negative SI.	Explain why the instrument should be subject to the negative procedure and, if applicable, why they disagree with the recommendation(s) of the SLSC/Sifting Committees.
Appropriate-ness	Sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2.	A statement that the SI does no more than is appropriate.
Good Reasons	Sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2.	Explain the good reasons for making the instrument and that what is being done is a reasonable course of action.
Equalities	Sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2.	Explain what, if any, amendment, repeals or revocations are being made to the Equalities Acts 2006 and 2010 and legislation made under them. State that the Minister has had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
Explanations	Sub-paragraph (6) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2 In addition to the statutory obligation the Government has made a political commitment to include these statements alongside all European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 SIs.	Explain the instrument, identify the relevant law before exit day, explain the instrument's effect on retained EU law and give information about the purpose of the instrument, e.g., whether minor or technical changes only are intended to the EU retained law.

Criminal offences	Sub-paragraphs (3) and (7) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9, and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2 to create a criminal offence.	Set out the ‘good reasons’ for creating a criminal offence, and the penalty attached.
Sub-delegation	Paragraph 30, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 10(1), 12 and part 1 of Schedule 4 to create a legislative power exercisable not by a Minister of the Crown or a Devolved Authority by Statutory Instrument.	State why it is appropriate to create such a sub-delegated power.
Urgency	Paragraph 34, Schedule 7	Ministers of the Crown using the urgent procedure in paragraphs 4 or 14, Schedule 7.	Statement of the reasons for the Minister’s opinion that the SI is urgent.
Explanations where amending regulations under s.2(2) ECA 1972	Paragraph 13, Schedule 8	Anybody making an SI after exit day under powers outside the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 which modifies subordinate legislation made under s. 2(2) ECA.	Statement explaining the good reasons for modifying the instrument made under s. 2(2) ECA, identifying the relevant law before exit day, and explaining the instrument’s effect on retained EU law.
Scrutiny statement where amending regulations under s.2(2) ECA 1972	Paragraph 16, Schedule 8	Anybody making an SI after exit day under powers outside the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 which modifies subordinate legislation made under s. 2(2) ECA.	Statement setting out: a) the steps which the relevant authority has taken to make the draft instrument published in accordance with paragraph 16(2), Schedule 8 available to each House of Parliament, b) containing information about the relevant authority’s response to— (i) any recommendations made by a committee of either House of Parliament about the published draft instrument, and (ii) any other representations made to the relevant authority about the published draft instrument, and c) containing any other information that the relevant authority considers appropriate in relation to the scrutiny of the instrument or draft instrument which is to be laid.

Part 2

Statements required when using enabling powers under the European Union (Withdrawal) 2018 Act

1. Sifting statement(s)

- 1.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view the Animal By-Products and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 should be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament (i.e. the negative procedure).”

- 1.2 This is the case because it addresses only technical deficiencies in EU derived Northern Ireland legislation that will arise from EU withdrawal and will not introduce any new policy.

2. Appropriateness statement

- 2.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view the Animal By-Products and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 does no more than is appropriate.”

- 2.2 This is the case because it makes only technical amendments to the EU derived Northern Ireland legislation to ensure that it remains operative following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and will not introduce any new policy.

3. Good reasons

- 3.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view there are good reasons for the provisions in this instrument, and I have concluded they are a reasonable course of action”.

- 3.2 It is important to ensure that the existing regime regarding the controls applied to animal by-products not intended for human consumption and rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies is maintained.

4. Equalities

- 4.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, has made the following statement:

“The instrument does not amend, repeal or revoke a provision or provisions in the Equality Act 2006 or the Equality Act 2010 or subordinate legislation made under those Acts.”

- 4.2 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Lord Gardiner of Kimble has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In relation to the instrument I, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, have had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010”.

- 4.3 Given the subject matter of the instrument being amended and the technical nature of this instrument, no opportunities to advance the matters set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 arise.

5. Explanations

- 5.1 The explanations statement has been made in section 2 of the main body of this Explanatory Memorandum.