

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM FOR EUROPEAN UNION  
LEGISLATION/DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE UK/EU WITHDRAWAL  
AGREEMENT AND THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK**

**C (2023) 7658 FINAL + ANNEX**

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) /... AMENDING ANNEX IV TO  
REGULATION (EU) NO 576/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE  
COUNCIL AS REGARDS THE VALIDITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RABIES  
ANTIBODY TITRATION TESTS FOR DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS**

Submitted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

12 February 2024

**SUBJECT MATTER**

1. The draft Delegated Regulation provides a technical change to update the regulation associated with rabies antibody titration testing to ensure consistency of regulation for the laboratories where testing can be performed and the requirements laboratories are subject to. There are no policy or operation changes associated with this amendment.
2. Rabies testing is required for pets moving from unlisted countries into EU Member States. For the purposes of the EU Pet Travel Regulations (EU 576/2013), Great Britain is a Part II listed country, so rabies antibody titration testing is not required. There is no requirement for rabies testing for pets moving between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
3. The amendment is a temporary measure until further regulations come in to force in 2026. Policy teams will continue to monitor the drafting of the new regulations.

**SCRUTINY HISTORY**

4. There is no Parliamentary scrutiny history relevant to this Explanatory Memorandum.

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

5. Responsibility lies with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

**INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED GOVERNMENTS (DGs)**

6. Welsh Government and Scottish Government consulted and are content with this technical change that will not have operational or policy impacts.
7. Northern Ireland consulted and confirmed no divergence issue for NI/GB given this is a technical change.

## LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

8.

- i. **Legal Base:** Article 38 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.
- ii. **Voting Procedure:** There is no voting procedure, the instrument is a delegated act made by the Commission under Article 38 Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.
- iii. **Timetable for adoption and implementation:** The amendments detailed in the document were adopted on 21 November 2023 and are currently in the scrutiny phase before publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. Regulation EU 576/2013 will remain in force for the non-commercial movement of pets until 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

## POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The change in Regulation will not create any additional barriers for moving pets either commercially or non-commercially from Great Britain to the EU, or to Northern Ireland. This is because the UK in respect of GB is recognised by the EU as a Part II listed country, and thus there is no requirement for rabies titre tests for the non-commercial movement of pet animals moving from GB into the EU. The regulatory change confirms the rules for laboratories that can undertake rabies antibody titration testing.
10. Furthermore, there are no EU-approved laboratories in Northern Ireland and therefore as no rabies testing is undertaken.

## CONSULTATION

11. No consultation is planned.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. This Regulation is unlikely to impose any additional financial burden.



**LORD DOUGLAS-MILLER**  
**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MINISTER FOR**  
**BIOSECURITY, ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE)**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**