

Permitting decisions- Transfer

Full Transfer

We have decided to grant the transfer for Haywold Farm Pig Unit and Westwold Farm Pig Unit from J.S.R. Farms Limited to J.S.R. Genetics Limited.

The permit number is EPR/RP3535MT.

The permit was issued on 17/01/2025.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

A transfer date has been agreed with the new operator as the date on which they will be in control of the facility. This is the effective date of the permit transfer.

Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- highlights key issues in the determination;
- summarises the decision making process in the decision considerations to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account;

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise, we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the transfer notice.

Key Issues of the Decision

Improvement and Pre-operational Conditions

The area officer has confirmed that the two improvement conditions in Table S1.3 of the permit, reference IC1 and IC2, have been satisfied and are therefore closed. The area officer has also confirmed that the pre-operational measure in Table S1.4 of the permit is not yet complete and is therefore required to be transferred with the permit.

Decision considerations

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Operator

We are satisfied that the applicant the permit is being transferred to (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.

The applicant has confirmed that the transfer from J.S.R. Farms Limited to J.S.R. Genetics Limited is due to a business restructure and that the environmental management system, operation of the farms and staff will remain the same.

The date of transfer has been confirmed by the new operator as the date of permit issue.

Management System

We are not aware of any reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.

The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.

Previous performance

We have assessed operator competence. There is no known reason to consider the applicant will not comply with the permit conditions.

We have checked our systems to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared.

No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.

Financial competence

There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.

Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 100 of that Act in deciding whether to grant the transfer of this permit.

Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:

“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.

We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.