

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

31 January 2024

Dear Lesley

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

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 2024 in respect of your decision to consent to the making of the above Regulations. My Committee considered the letter at its meeting of 15 January 2024.

It would be helpful for us to receive further information about the Regulations and other legislation required to implement the Border Target Operating Model (TOM). We would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the questions enclosed in the annex by 21 February 2024.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair

Annex

1. You state in your letter that the statutory instrument will be the first piece of legislation to implement the first milestone of the TOM from 31 January 2024. Could you provide further information in respect of legislation anticipated to be required to reach future milestones?
2. You state in your letter that it was not possible to give my Committee advance notice of your intention to consent to the Regulations as the statutory instrument was received during recess. Could you indicate whether you were given advance notice by the UK Government of the proposed scope of these regulations, and if so, when you were provided with this notice?
3. You have previously exchanged correspondence with my Committee on the relationship between official controls regulations and international obligations, particularly to WTO rules and the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. You raised concerns that the current position may be incompatible with the UK's obligations but that this was a temporary position and that the risks of this incompatibility did not fall to the Welsh Ministers. Could you provide an update on whether and how these regulations develop this position?

