



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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www.gov.uk/defra

25 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to stakeholder engagement on extending import requirements to *Solanum tuberosum* plants

Thank you for submitting views on the above stakeholder engagement. This letter is to notify you of the outcome.

Background

Since 1 January 2021, certain requirements have been in place in Great Britain for the importation of potato tubers for planting from the EU to prevent the introduction of certain pests and diseases associated with potato plants that pose a significant risk to the biosecurity of Great Britain. Trading volume data has shown that not all imported EU potato plants for planting arriving in Great Britain are tubers. Instead, these imports consist of other commodities, such as micro plants, that could similarly be associated with high-risk pests and diseases.

Proposal

In order to tackle this biosecurity risk, to extend the existing measures (in entries 20 and 21 of Annex 7 of The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020) to cover not only tubers but all plants for planting of potato (other than seeds), as well as making some consequential amendments in entries 22 and 29 to exclude potatoes which are already subject to entries 20 and 21. Finally, an error in entry 21 is corrected to include Liechtenstein in the requirements, as previously intended.

Summary of responses

Three responses were received, these were from:



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

- British Potato Trade Association (BPTA)
- Horticultural Trade Association (HTA)
- One private nursery

The responses from the BPTA and the private nursery were positive and were in support of the proposal to bring the import requirements of *Solanum tuberosum* plants in line with that required by *S. tuberosum* tubers.

The HTA confirmed that they could ascertain no significant disruption to trade from this proposal.

Next steps

The responses received were generally supportive of the proposed amendments to extend the import requirements to cover not only tubers but all plants for planting of potato (other than seeds). Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government intend to implement this proposal from 2 May 2024.

I would like to thank those responding for taking the time to submit views on the stakeholder engagement. Your comments have been very valuable in working to develop a policy position.

If you have any views about how this review was handled, or its outcome, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,

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