

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **Fodder Plant Seeds (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

#### **SR 2011 No. 397**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred on it by section 1(1) and (2A) and 2 of the Seeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3. The rule is due to come into operation on 19 December 2011.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The rule transposes the EU Directive 2010/60/EU, which requires Member States to introduce regulations covering certain derogations for marketing of fodder plant seed mixtures for use in the preservation of the natural environment.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The principal regulations, The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 have been now amended to transpose Directive 2010/60/EU.

#### **4. Matters of Special Interest to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee**

- 4.1. There is no impact on the rural community as the EU Preservation Seeds Mixture Directive is considered unlikely to have any practical application in Northern Ireland, as there are no registered producers of conservation varieties of Fodder Plant Seeds here.

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1. As required by the Seeds Act 1965, the Department consulted stakeholders within the seeds trade and others. No comments were received.

#### **6. Position in Great Britain and Ireland**

- 6.1. All UK and RoI authorities are transposing the EU Preservation Seeds Mixture Directive.

## **7. Equality Impact**

- 7.1. The Department has screened out this legislation under the Equality and Human Rights screening procedures.

## **8. Regulatory Impact**

- 8.1. Not necessary for these Regulations as there is no impact on the private and voluntary sectors. The EU Preservation Seeds Mixture Directive is unlikely to have any practical application in Northern Ireland.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. There is no financial impact on the rural community as this Directive is unlikely to have any practical application in Northern Ireland.

## **10. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 10.1. These Regulations are compliant with Section 24 of the NI Act 1998.

## **11. EU Implications**

- 11.1. This is a transposition of EU directive 2010/60 namely “the EU Preservation Seeds Mixture Directive”.

## **12. Additional Information**

- 12.1. Not applicable.

## **13. Contact**

- 13.1 Brian Ervine with any queries regarding the Regulations. Telephone 028 9052 5570 or email [Brian.Ervine@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.Ervine@dardni.gov.uk).