

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE ZONOSSES (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011

S.R. 2011 No. 437

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland 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 by the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3 The Statutory Rule is being made to bring domestic legislation in line with EU Law which comes into effect on 1 January 2012. This rule makes a specific tapeworm notifiable and allows the Department to maintain disease control measures for imports of pets from other Member States and Third Countries. Regrettably it has been decided that on this occasion the Department is unable to comply with the 21 day rule. This Order will come into operation on 1st January 2012.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 Until 31 December 2011 we will be able to maintain movement controls in relation to pets coming from countries where the tapeworm *Echinococcus Multilocularis* (EM) is present in canids. To enable us to continue with our controls the European Commission proposed a delegated act in July 2011 to allow Member States to impose controls for movement of pets in relation to tapeworm treatment. We are currently free of the tapeworm EM which can be carried by pets.

3. Background

- 3.1 Infection with the larval form of EM causes alveolar echinococcosis (AE). Humans can become inadvertently infected by ingesting fruits and vegetables contaminated with echinococcus species' eggs excreted by infected foxes or through eggs shed by domestic dogs and transmitted through their close contact to humans. AE is a rare zoonotic disease considered as one of the most severe human parasitic diseases in non-tropical areas. It is a chronic cancer like disease with a long incubation period (circa 5-15 years) and a fatality rate of up to 100 % in untreated patients. In a European context AE is an established disease that is

increasing in incidence and geographic range and is having a major impact on public and animal health.

- 3.2 To be able to impose controls for EM it is a requirement of the delegated act that EM must be notifiable in legislation.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 As this is a technical amendment no consultation was required. The organism will only be detected through examination of samples that have either been submitted to AFBI for investigation or are part of ongoing surveillance. AFBI will therefore be made aware of the new requirement to notify DARD if they detect the organism.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1 In accordance with DARD's obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the equality implications of the proposed Order have been assessed and a screening exercise was carried out on the proposed legislation. The outcome was that an Equality Impact Assessment on the proposed legislation was not considered necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact / Better Regulation

- 6.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared as it is a technical amendment and does not impose an additional costs or administrative burdens on stakeholders.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The introduction of this legislation will not have any financial implications for stakeholders.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1 This Order deals with animal disease control and do not have any human rights implications, nor are they incompatible with EU law. The Regulations are therefore deemed to comply with the requirements of section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1 DEFRA and DAFM currently have the same controls as here. They too intend to introduce legislation which will make EM notifiable.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1 Not applicable

12. Contact

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