

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018**

**S.R. 2018 No. 216**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. These Regulations revoke and replace the Beef and Pig Carcase Classification Regulations (NI) 2010 which provide enforcement powers for EU legislation dealing with classifying beef and pig carcasses and for reporting of beef prices.
- 2.2. Replacement regulations are needed to create enforcement powers for Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/1182 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/1184. Out of date references to other EU legislation will also be corrected at this time. The Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 give effect to these changes.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Beef and Pig Carcase Classification Regulations (NI) 2010 provide enforcement powers for EU legislation dealing with classifying beef and pig carcasses and for reporting of beef prices. Replacement regulations are needed to create enforcement powers for Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/1182 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/1184.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. A four week consultation with relevant stakeholders was undertaken during November 2018. Two responses were received from the consultees, both of which were supportive.

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. In accordance with the guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and in keeping with Regulation 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the proposals in this Statutory Rule have been screened for equality impact and it is concluded that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.
- 5.2. The record of the screening exercise has been placed on record with the DAERA Equality Unit as required.

## **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. The new regulations increase the threshold for beef (bovines aged 8 months and over) from 75 to 150 per week and pig abattoirs from 200 to 500 per week (both on an annual average basis), which mandate the requirement to classify carcasses. They also bring in a requirement for pig abattoirs who are classifying to provide details of classification results, carcass weights, carcass presentation; this is currently done here only on a voluntary basis. There is also a requirement for abattoirs slaughtering over the new thresholds (500 pigs per week) to supply details of deadweight prices for certain weight categories of pigs, this detail will then be collated and sent, on a weekly basis, to the European Commission arrangements to be made by DAERA).
- 6.2. There will be an additional deadweight category, U4 to be price reported to LMC for bovine carcasses of other female animals aged from 12 months. Classification and price reporting will continue to be required for a major proportion of the bovine industry here. New regulations will apply to pig abattoirs.
- 6.3. The mandatory price reporting for pigs, which was previously voluntary, increases regulation which on aggregate will result in a cost increase for business. The regulatory measure that ensures all pig abattoirs report their prices potentially adds a cost to eligible abattoirs that currently do not do so voluntarily. We understand that only one business will be affected.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. There are minimal financial implications associated with these Regulations. Annualised net cost for businesses is estimated at less than £2,000, affecting only a few abattoirs.

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

- 8.1. The Statutory Rule complies with all of the provisions set out in Section 24, as amended by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

## **9. EU Implications**

- 9.1. The introduction of this Statutory Rule will bring domestic legislation into line with EU law in relation to classifying beef and pig carcasses and for reporting of prices.

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

- 10.1. Equivalent legislation has been introduced in GB by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

## **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1. Not applicable.