

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Animal Health and Welfare (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

#### **S.R. 2019 No. 82**

#### **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. The Statutory Rule makes minor miscellaneous amendments to legislation relating to animal identification, welfare, disease and trade in animals and related products to deal with out-of-date references to domestic and European Union (EU) instruments. These references require updating because they refer to instruments that have been amended, replaced or revoked. The Statutory Rule also corrects some minor errors in domestic legislation that transposes or implements EU obligations. As such, it makes technical amendments which will allow the relevant legislation to operate effectively. It makes no policy changes.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Statutory Rule primarily amends out-of-date references to domestic and EU instruments in EU derived legislation. It also makes some minor drafting corrections to legislation which transpose or implement EU obligations. As such, the Statutory Rule ensures a functioning statute book which will assist the reader in his or her understanding of the law.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The amendments within the Statutory Rule consist of updates to out-of-date legislative references to domestic and EU instruments and minor drafting corrections. As such, it makes purely technical amendments and no policy changes. A consultation on its content is not, therefore, considered necessary.

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

- 5.1. The Department is required under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to screen the proposed changes to ascertain if an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A screening exercise was, therefore, carried out on the Statutory Rule. No equality issues were identified.

#### **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary. The Statutory Rule makes technical amendments only and will not impact on businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. None.

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

8.1. The Department is satisfied that the Statutory Rule complies with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

9.1. None.

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

10.1. The Statutory Rule is not necessary for parity elsewhere. Similar instruments have, however, been made in other jurisdictions.

## **11. Additional Information**

11.1. It is intended that the Statutory Rule will come into operation on 11 April 2019 .