

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE EGGS AND CHICKS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010

I am writing to invite your comments on proposed amendments to the Eggs and Chicks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010. As the legislation that is being amended relates to food, this consultation is being carried out as required by Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

The amendments make minor wording changes in order to ensure that the legislation will remain fully operable after the UK's Exit from the EU.

Background

The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (the 2018 Act) will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 (the ECA) on the day the UK leaves the European Union (EU). The 2018 Act also converts EU law as it stands at the moment of exit, into UK domestic law and preserves UK laws made under the ECA to implement EU obligations.

Powers in the 2018 Act enable amendments to be made to EU Law to ensure that such legislation can work properly in the context of the UK no longer being a member of the EU. The 2018 Act also allows for amendments to be made to domestic legislation which implements and enforces EU obligations in Northern Ireland, in order to ensure it is operable after EU Exit. One such piece of legislation is the Eggs and Chicks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Detail

The proposed amendments do not introduce new policy and simply seek to ensure that the legislation will continue to operate in the same way on Exit Day as it does currently.

The amendments remove certain provisions relating to eggs in shell for consumption that it is currently an offence to contravene, on the basis that the provisions relate specifically to the UK being a Member State. The instrument also removes references to Article 4 of Council Directive 1999/74/EC, and replaces this with a reference to the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, as the Council Directive is already fully transposed into that Northern Ireland domestic legislation.

Responding to the Consultation

Details of the proposed amendments, can be found at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-amendments-eggs-and-chicks-regulations-northern-ireland-2010>

If you would like to comment in relation to these documents, please reply by **16 August 2019** to:

AgriFood.BrexitLegislation@daera-ni.gov.uk;

or by post to:

Consultation on Eggs and Chicks Regulations (NI) 2010 amendments
Room 656
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw Belfast BT4 3SB.

Copies of the consultation document can also be made available, on request, in alternative formats e.g. in large print, Braille disc, audio cassette and other languages. Please contact John Terrington on 028 9037 8510 to arrange such copies, or to discuss the consultation more generally. For those with hearing difficulties, leave a message on the Department's text phone (18001 028 9052 5031).

Yours sincerely,



JOHN TERRINGTON
Agri-Food Brexit Policy II

Confidentiality of Consultations

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Department in this case. This includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider information supplied to it in response to a consultation to be confidential. However, it does have a responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to a consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response. However, please be aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, except in very particular circumstances. The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, should you respond in an individual capacity. This means that your personal information may not be disclosed to third parties should you request confidentiality. You should be aware that the Department may publish a synopsis of responses to the consultation.

