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Finlay Carson MSP  
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

15 November 2023

Dear Finlay

**THE OFFICIAL CONTROLS (EXTENSION OF TRANSITIONAL PERIODS)  
(MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS 2023 – DEFRA PH/046)**

I am writing to provide the further details requested by the Committee on 13 November 2023 to support its consideration of the above UK SI at its meeting on 22 November 2023. The two questions posed by the Committee and responses are set out below.

**The notification states that a consultation exercise was carried out but does not provide any details regarding the outcome of the consultation. Please can you provide further detail on the outcome of the consultation?**

The UK Government carried out the consultation. They advise that they received a number of queries on the proposed measures but that no substantive comments were put forward by stakeholders for consideration.

**The proposed instrument provides for an exemption for medium-risk plants carried in passenger baggage and entering Great Britain from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland from the requirement to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate upon entry. What assessments were carried out before making this decision?**

The Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) sets out the default requirement for commercial imports of plant and plant products into Great Britain for medium risk goods. The BTOM provides the necessary assurance and ensures goods which pose a medium risk to GB biosecurity are subject to proportionate import controls. This instrument ends the exemption for phytosanitary certificates for commercial goods classified as medium risk, but continues the policy that allows for a passenger baggage allowance. No further assessment was made as there is no suggestion of a change in risk from passenger baggage from the above mentioned countries.

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I hope that these additional details are helpful to the Committee, and I am, of course, happy to provide anything further the Committee might require. A copy of this letter has been sent to Ms Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands for her interests.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Lorna Slater". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**LORNA SLATER**

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