

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural
Environment
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Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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24th February

Dear Edward,

**THE PLANT HEALTH AND VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT ETC.) (EU
EXIT) REGULATIONS 2019
EU EXIT LEGISLATION – PROTOCOL WITH SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

The Scottish Parliament agreed on 12 June 2019 that it was content for Scottish Ministers to give their consent to the Plant Health and Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (“the SI”) including Scottish devolved matters, as set out in the notification to the Parliament. I am writing to inform you that the SI has not and will not be made.

When the Scottish Parliament agreed to Scottish Ministers giving their consent to the SI, the instrument had not been finalised and changes were subsequently made; content was removed resulting in it being renamed the Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which was laid at Westminster on 22 July 2019. The primary function of the SI, in anticipation of a possible ‘no deal’ exit from the European Union on 31 October 2019, was to make amendments to the plant health regime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Those amendments are no longer necessary in light of the new EU Plant Health Regulation (“the PHR”) coming into force on 14 December 2019.

Defra’s intention is to include the provisions of the SI that did not become redundant with the advent of the PHR and that are still required, in an SI that will be made in the transition period which is due to end 31 December 2020. My officials will be working closely with Defra in this regard and, at the appropriate time, a notification for the Scottish Parliament will be prepared and submitted in accordance with the notification protocol.

I am copying this letter to the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairi Gougeon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mairi' written in a more compact, stylized way and the last name 'Gougeon' written in a more extended, flowing script.

MAIRI GOUGEON