



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmyltaight, Bee as Eirinys

Isle of Man
Government
Rei Tys Eilken Yewain

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4th January 2021

Dear Mr President, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members

Re. Follow-up to the extraordinary sitting of Tynwald held on 30th December 2020

At the extraordinary sitting of Tynwald held on 30th December 2020 the Chief Minister gave a commitment to provide Tynwald Members with further information clarifying the position with respect to the export of red meat and the management of the Island's fisheries upon commencement of the new UK-EU trade agreement.

This letter provides the requested clarification and also affords an opportunity to highlight the additional legislation that is being progressed by my Department to support the implementation of this agreement and future UK trade agreements with countries around the World.

Export of red meat

With respect to red meat, Mr Hooper MHK expressed concerns that exports of this product from the Island to the EU may be hindered following restrictions being imposed on export of UK red meat to the EU, as per a recent BBC article¹. I note these regulatory changes potentially apply to import of red meat products into the EU, i.e. mince and sausages. The IOM Meat plant currently only produces fresh mince for sale locally and currently does not export any mince or sausages directly to the EU. All meat products sold by the IOM Meat plant, are exported to the UK for sale and distribution, with some further processing by UK companies. These products may then sold across the UK or exported to the EU as part of a UK export, and thus subject to the same regulatory controls as those UK meat products. At this time the regulatory changes referred to are not anticipated to directly impact upon Manx export of such products to the UK, although there may be knock-on effects in the future as the UK market adjusts to these changes in regulatory controls.

I would highlight that exports of non-processed meat products are not subject to the same controls, and may continue to be exported fresh, i.e. unfrozen, to the UK and then (potentially) onwards to the EU after 1st January 2021.

¹ [Brexit: UK sausage makers face EU export ban - BBC News](#)

Controls on the granting, suspension and revocation of sea fishing licences

I also note that Mr Quine MHK requested some further information with respect to regulatory controls on the granting, and revocation of sea fishing licences.

I can confirm that, with effect from 11pm on 31st December 2020, all foreign vessels fishing in Manx waters will have to obtain a licence further to the Sea Fishing Licensing (No. 2) Regulations 2018, as amended. This latest licensing requirement for foreign vessels was introduced as a consequence of the Sea Fishing Licensing (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, which have been published on the Department's homepage at www.gov.im/defa.

I would highlight, further to concerns raised by Mr Moorhouse MHK during the debate, that the operation of such vessels will be restricted, by a condition on this licence, to fishing within the 6 – 12 mile limit. This condition serves to prevent such vessels from fishing within the designated marine nature reserves, which exist in Manx territorial waters in the 0 – 3 mile limit.

Foreign vessels seeking to obtain such a sea fishing licence will be required to meet all of the same licensing requirements as Manx fishing vessels, as well being required to demonstrate a track record of 10 days fishing in any of the following 12 month periods –

- 1st February 2017 to 31st January 2018;
- 1st February 2018 to 31st January 2019; or
- 1st February 2019 to 31st January 2020.

Such a sea fishing licence may be suspended, or ultimately revoked, for breaches of the conditions imposed on that licence, or a failure to comply with the requirements of the Fisheries Act 2012 and associated secondary legislation made under that Act, which is similar to the EU legislation such fishing vessels already operate under.

Additional legislation

As noted above, the new licensing requirements for foreign fishing vessels are set out in the Sea Fishing Licensing (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, which have been published on the Department's homepage at www.gov.im/defa. These Regulations will be laid before the January 2021 sitting of Tynwald subject to the negative procedure.

In addition, as part of the Department's preparations for the commencement of the trade agreement, a number of additional items of legislation were made in advance of the commencement of the new UK-EU trade agreement, with particular regard to the retention and implementation of EU law relating to plant and plant health legislation. The most notable of these are the European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Deficiencies) (DEFA) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 (the "No. 3 regulations"), which retain and modify items of EU legislation in the same manner as the UK.

These items of legislation have been made to allow the Island to meet the necessary legal commitments for the extension of UK-EU trade agreement to the Island, as well as future UK trade agreements with other countries.

All of the items of legislation published on this webpage will be submitted to the January 2021 sitting of Tynwald for consideration and approval subject to the applicable Tynwald procedures.

I hope that the above information has been of assistance. If Honourable Members require any further information on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
[Signature redacted]

Hon. Geoffrey Boot MHK
Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture