EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Biosecurity Guidance (Specification of Brucellosis) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010

S.R. 2010 No. 176

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ("the Department") to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 4A(1) of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (as amended) ("the 1981 Order") and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The Rule specifies brucellosis for the purposes of Article 4A(1) of the 1981 Order, enabling the Department to introduce statutory biosecurity guidance for that disease.

3. Background

3.1. Article 4A(1) of the 1981 Order provides the Department with the powers to prepare biosecurity guidance in relation to any disease specified by order of the Department. The Department intends to prepare such biosecurity guidance for brucellosis.

4. Consultation

4.1. No consultation was carried out on the Rule. The Department will engage in a period of public consultation on the statutory biosecurity guidance for brucellosis once it has been prepared.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. The Department has statutory equality obligations under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Section 75 requires us to equality screen, and where appropriate, to undertake a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). However, this Rule has not been equality screened nor has an EQIA been considered, as the introduction of this Rule is simply a step to enable the Department to prepare statutory biosecurity guidance for brucellosis.

5.2. However, in accordance with the Department's statutory obligations, we are fully committed to assessing the equality implications of the biosecurity guidance. An equality screening assessment will be undertaken in June 2010 as we are preparing the guidance and, if necessary, a full EQIA will also be undertaken.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. No Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been prepared for this Rule. An RIA will be carried out during the preparation of the statutory biosecurity guidance for brucellosis.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The Rule does not have any financial implications for the Department or its stakeholders.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. It is the view of the Department that this Rule complies with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It does not have any human rights implications nor is it incompatible with EU law.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.