EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE SPECIFIED ANIMAL PATHOGENS (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010

S.R. 2010 No. 24

1. 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

2. Description

2.1 The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and is subject to negative resolution procedure.

2.2 The Rule will come into operation on 22nd February 2010.

3. Background

3.1 The Specified Animal Pathogens (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 amends Part 1 of Schedule 1 to The Specified Animal Pathogens Order (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Principal Regulations) and will add Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus Genotype 2(PRRSv2) to the Schedule.

3.2 The amendment prohibits possession of the pathogen, or carriers containing it, unless under the conditions of a licence granted by the Department. The introduction of the pathogen into animals or birds is prohibited, subject to the provisions of a licence.

3.3 Schedule 1 of the Principal Regulations lists the specified animal pathogens.

4. Consultation

4.1 There has been no formal consultation carried out as the Order is a technical amendment to the Schedule 1.

5. Equality Impact

5.1 An equality impact assessment has not been carried out. No impact is foreseen on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

6. Regulatory Impact and Financial Implications

6.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been carried out as the Order does not have any financial implications.

7. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

7.1 The Order does not have any human rights implications nor is it incompatible with EU law. The Order is therefore deemed to comply with the requirements of Section 24 of the NI Act 1998.

8. EU Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Position in GB

9.1 GB has provided for this additional pathogen in The Specified Animal Pathogens (Amendment) Order 2009 which came into force on 21 December 2009.

9.2 Scotland and Wales have confirmed that they intend to introduce this amendment into legislation.

10. Additional Information

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Contact

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