POLICY NOTE

THE ZOONOSES AMENDMENT (CORONAVIRUS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2021

SSI 2021/83

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 1, 7(1), 8(1), 17(1), 23, 29 and 87(2) of the Animal Health Act 1981.

The instrument is subject to no procedure.

Purpose of the instrument:

To create a power that will allow the Scottish Ministers to make SARS-CoV-2 (the causative agent of COVID-19) reportable in mammals (except man), to enable new mutations of the disease, which may have the potential to infect humans and interfere with vaccine induced immune response, to be detected promptly. This will allow any appropriate measures to be taken by public health authorities in order to protect public health.

Policy Objectives

These powers will be used to designate infection with SARS-CoV-2 as a zoonotic organism, make it reportable in mammals (except man), and make other provisions for powers to investigate, control movements, restrict and isolate animals, to require cleansing and disinfection and order slaughter if necessary.

Consultation

Similar legislative proposals are being prepared in the other GB Administrations to make SARS-CoV-2 reportable.

There is insufficient time to consult on these measures, which are urgently required to protect public health during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Impact Assessments

Full Impact Assessments have not been prepared for The Zoonoses Amendment (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Order 2021, as the instrument is urgently required to protect human health and is expected to have minimal/no impact on businesses. The amendments do not alter Scottish Government's current environmental policies and priorities and, therefore, do not have a significant impact on the environment. No Data Impact Assessment has been completed, as there have been no risks identified with data protection law.

Financial Effects

The Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment confirms that no BRIA is necessary, as the instrument has minimal financial effects on the Scottish Government, local

government, and businesses, where laboratories and veterinary practices in particular are required to change their notification procedures to require notification of SARS-CoV-2.

Scottish Government
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
16 February 2021