

**Carwyn Jones AM/AC**

**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Tŷ  
Counsel General and Leader of the House**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Lord Dafydd Elis – Thomas AM  
Presiding Officer  
National Assembly Wales

18 June 2008

Dear Dafydd

**THE BLUETONGUE (WALES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2008**

I am writing to inform you that in order to bring The Bluetongue (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 into force in Wales, it has become necessary to breach the 21 day rule. These Regulations were made and laid in Table Office on 18 June 2008 and will come into force on 19 June 2008.

These Regulations amend the Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008 to ensure that a technical error is corrected to enable Welsh Ministers to grant a licence for persons to obtain a supply of vaccine from wholesalers and manufacturers authorised under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2007. Had it been necessary to commence vaccination in advance of these Regulations the necessary powers would need to have been exercised by the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

Since the emergence of Bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) in Northern Europe (and now in certain areas of England) control of the disease has been largely based on movement restrictions. However, even strict enforcement of these restrictions is no guarantee against disease spread as it is not possible to control the midge vector. The implementation of a vaccination programme could therefore significantly reduce Bluetongue virus circulation and limit its geographical distribution, contributing to its control and potential eradication, and prevent losses by minimising the impact of clinical disease.

The Regulations are required to come into force as soon as possible to provide the necessary powers to enable Welsh Ministers to issue a licence for persons to obtain vaccine. A controlled vaccination programme is planned to commence as soon as a supply of vaccine is available enabling farmers to protect against the disease. A Protection Zone

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

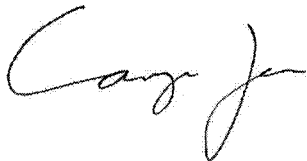
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will be declared at that time as European legislation provides that vaccination can take place only in a Protection Zone. It is expected that further batches of vaccine will become available as the summer progresses and therefore legislative provision is required to permit the issuing of a licence by Welsh Ministers. For these reasons it is recommended that the 21 day rule be breached in order that the Regulations can come into force on 19 June 2008.

Due to the amendment to the Regulations being of a technical nature only and the immediacy of the Instrument, these Regulations have not been subject to consultation or a Regulatory Impact Assessment. However, an Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

A copy of this letter goes to Dr Dai Lloyd, Chair of the Subordinate Legislation Committee and Anna Daniel, Clerk to the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jones', written in a cursive style.