

POLICY NOTE

THE BEE DISEASES AND PEST CONTROL (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 2021

SSI 2021/91

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 1 of the Bees Act 1980

The instrument is subject to no procedure.

Purpose of the instrument

To make Varroa species, a parasite of honey bees, reportable in Scotland.

Policy Objectives

Varroosis is the disease caused by the infestation of Varroa mites species, an ectoparasite of honey bees, is an endemic disease in the UK and present in most bee hives in Scotland with only small pockets on remote areas reported, but not officially, free of the mite. Varroosis is currently not a reportable or notifiable disease in the UK.

Making the presence of Varroa mites reportable by beekeepers will provide us with an opportunity to gather information to inform future policy, strategic decisions on controls of Varroa and reduce its incidence as well as its spread.

Making the presence of Varroa mites reportable will also help ensure continuity of trade with the EU and Northern Ireland. Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 will apply within the EU from 21 April 2021 and require that consignments of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin shall only be permitted to enter the Union from a third country or territory where diseases listed in Annex I are required by law to be notified and reported to the competent authority.

For consignments of bees, Infestation with Varroa mites (Varroosis) is one of the listed diseases in Annex I to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 (as it is referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (“the Animal Health Law”) and listed in Annex II thereto).

Scottish ministers have also expressed their intention to remain aligned to EU regulations. Varroa will become reportable in all EU member states upon the implementation of the Animal Health law, currently scheduled for the 21st of April 2021. This amendment to the Bees Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 will allow us to remain aligned to EU regulations.

Consultation

No formal public consultation has taken place.

Scottish Government officials are in discussions with UK Government and Welsh Government on the implications of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 which requires certain diseases by law to be notified and reported to the competent authority for consignments of animals to be permitted to enter the EU. . Stakeholders and Operational Partners have been informed during regular meetings of this change and no opposition has been raised.

Impact Assessments

Impact assessments have not been prepared for this instrument because the amendments do not have a significant impact on the environment, and there are no equality, children or privacy impact issues

.

Financial Effects

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

Scottish Government
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

February 2021