
To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 23 January 2019

Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

**Heading: SCOTTISH FOOD ENFORCEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE: BREXIT
WORKING GROUP**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) has set up a short-term sub-group to focus on and make recommendations relating to the potential impact of a “No Deal” BREXIT on areas of the food regulatory landscape. Areas relating to International Trade; Public Health; Consumer Protection; Resource Implications and Standardisation of Charging will form the core areas which the group will consider.
- 1.2 As part of the role as a Food/Port Health Authority, Renfrewshire Council has responsibility for official controls and certification in terms of food exports from the Renfrewshire area and imports through Glasgow International airport.
- 1.3 At present there are regular food imports from outside the EU through Glasgow Airport, all of which receive documentary checks and a proportion are subject to physical examination. In addition, a number of products originating from Renfrewshire require health certification to allow their export to countries outside the EU.
- 1.4 Glasgow International Airport is not currently approved for carrying out checks on animals and animal products arriving from third countries at an EU border. These products must enter the EU through a designated Border Inspection Post (BIP), the closest to Renfrewshire is at Manchester Airport.

- 1.5 Imports from within the EU or foods from outwith the EU which have already been checked at a previous EU border (for example Manchester or Rotterdam) can currently pass freely without examination as they are being transported within the EU. In addition, businesses exporting to the EU do not currently require health certification for their goods. For Renfrewshire, this is predominantly whisky.
 - 1.6 It is anticipated that under a no deal BREXIT or some other form of harder BREXIT there could be major changes to this arrangement and the SFELC Brexit Working Group will seek to understand and influence how the regulatory landscape will operate post BREXIT.
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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:
 - (i) notes that Renfrewshire Council are part of the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) BREXIT Working Group and will be involved in its work to understand and influence the future shape of the regulatory landscape as it relates to official controls and certification relating to food exports and imports.
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3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) has a membership made up of local authority staff, representatives of professional groups, Food Standards Scotland (FSS), consumer groups, food industry representatives and other government departments. Three sub-committees covering food safety, food standards and feeding stuffs provide a supporting structure for the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee and help to implement strategic objectives.
- 3.2 The Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee supports the work of Food Standards Scotland (FSS) by providing information and expert advice in relation to food and feed law enforcement. It contributes to the development and implementation of Food Standards Scotland strategies and policies which allow it to fulfill its core functions in respect of food and feed safety and consumer protection.
- 3.3 The Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee has set up a short-term sub-group which will focus on and make recommendations relating to the effect of BREXIT on areas of the food regulatory landscape. In particular, the group will:
 - identify in the context of Official Controls and the certification of food exports, the impacts, impediments, implications and the opportunities of the post BREXIT regulatory landscape and make recommendations thereon;

- identify the immediate barriers to protection of Public Health and international trade in the post BREXIT landscape and identify short term contingencies. Particular attention will be focused upon resourcing;
 - achieve the dual high-level goals of optimal protection of Public Health and the protection of the consumer, together with international trade through a review of the current landscape of certification of exports;
 - examine the roles of various organisations and the potential for simplifying the landscape and streamlining the process of export certification;
 - examine the critical competencies required of authorised officers certifying food exports;
 - establish a harmonised approach to export certification including a standardised export licence certifying Food Control Management systems based upon relevant regulatory standards, - eg World Health Organisation-CODEX and the International Standards Organisation Codes of Practice;
 - establish a standardised system of electronic and automated export certification and charging based on Official Controls which support international trade by ensuring the exercise of Due-Diligence on the part of certifying Bodies and by Food Business Operators.
- 3.4 As part of their role as a Food/Port Health Authority, Renfrewshire Council has responsibility for official controls and certification in terms of food exports from the Renfrewshire area and imports through Glasgow International airport.
- 3.5 At present there are regular food imports from outside the EU through Glasgow International Airport, all of which receive documentary checks and a proportion of which are subject to physical examination. In addition, a number of products originating from Renfrewshire require health certification to allow their export to countries outside the EU.
- 3.6 Imports from within the EU or foods from outside the EU which have been previously checked at an EU border such as Manchester Airport or Rotterdam can pass freely without examination as they are transiting within the EU. In addition, businesses exporting to the EU do not currently require health certification for their goods.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None

Renfrewshire is safe – The regulation of food imports and exports ensure that food entering/exporting Glasgow Airport is safe.

4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

List of Background Papers

None

OR
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