

## Update on exporting seed and other propagating material to the EU

While it is the position of the Scottish Government that Scotland is better off remaining in the EU, the Scottish Government has been working with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, to ensure that all parts of the UK are prepared for leaving the EU. This includes preparing for all eventualities including a no deal EU Exit.

As part of the UK's no deal planning, Defra, on behalf of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, submitted an application to the European Commission for third country equivalence for certification of seed and other propagating material and to address related plant health issues. This would ensure exports continue as now.

However, we have been informed by the European Commission that they will not consider this application before the ongoing withdrawal negotiations have been completed. This means that in the event of a no deal, you will not be able to market UK certified seed or other certified propagating material (including pre-basic and basic) in the EU.

We are aware of the implications this will have for businesses, and therefore resubmission of the application will be treated as a top priority following completion of negotiations. The UK will continue to engage with the Commission to agree an expedited approvals process to gain equivalence and the plant health changes as quickly as possible.

The UK's application to the European Commission covers agricultural species, forest reproductive material and plant health requirements for potatoes. A separate letter was issued on 8 March to businesses with an interest in seed and/or ware potato import and export.

<https://www.sasa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/letter%20to%20stake%20holders.pdf>

Scottish Government will also continue to engage with trade and businesses to share messages and understand the impacts on the sector. If you think that your business will be impacted, and have additional questions please contact us at [euexit@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:euexit@sasa.gov.scot)

Existing work will continue with preparing ourselves and the industry for exporting seed under OECD certification and accompanied by an ISTA certificate so that the UK is ready to export to the EU once our application is approved.

To this end Scottish Government have trained additional official samplers from both Scotland and Northern Ireland in ISTA sampling techniques to ensure that capacity is available when needed. SG will also make ISTA training available to licensed samplers once the likely timescale for approval for third country equivalence becomes clearer.

If you have any further enquiries please contact [euexit@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:euexit@sasa.gov.scot)