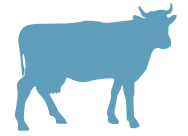


# Animal health & agriculture



The EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 is designed to transpose all directly applicable regulations into UK law, with the intention of ensuring no cliff edge and a functioning statute book from the day the UK left the EU. Existing EU-derived legislation will remain in place and be transposed into domestic statute via a number of EU Exit amendments.

## THE SITUATION IN 2021

In the main, the legislation for animal health and feed is not going to change immediately. It is suggested that the biggest risk to the UK will be the impact on business where there is a reduction or loss of direct funding to support the more vulnerable sectors of the agricultural industry.

## What has changed?

- » Agri-food goods traded from Great Britain into Northern Ireland will face additional border controls depending on whether the goods are for onward consignment into Europe.
- » The Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act 2020 has been introduced and EU legislation governing the 2020 CAP direct payment schemes is part of domestic law.
- » The UK will be responsible for ensuring risk analysis functions previously undertaken by the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) continue in the UK.
- » The UK is no longer a member of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) network.
- » The UK has replaced the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) with its own Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS).

## Issues to be resolved

- » There may be an increase in people keeping animals to beat any potential increase in shop prices. This could create risks for management of any notifiable exotic animal disease outbreak.
- » With the phasing-out of direct funding for support to the farming industry, there may be a rise in the number of complaints that local authorities receive relating to animal welfare.
- » The UK agricultural industry employs many EU residents for harvesting of crops. Consideration must be given to the impact should a business no longer be able to obtain labour.
- » Animal health and feed law is a devolved function; therefore, there are similar and parallel provisions for the legislation across the whole of the UK. There is level of uncertainty around the threats that the UK may be exposed to however.