

- **Framework ownership**

- Framework name: Plant Health Common Framework
- Responsible portfolio Minister: Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
- Framework lead policy contact: John Speirs, SASA Policy and PSU Team, ARE.
- Committees that the framework is being actively shared with:
 - Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee
 - Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee (for subject interest)
 - Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (for wider Frameworks programme interests)

1. Points for the Parliamentary committees to note

a. Procedural

- Date of ministerial sign-off of the provisional framework: The published version of the provisional framework was agreed by UK portfolio Ministers in January 2022.

b. Content

- Purpose of the framework

The Framework sets out arrangements for co-operation between the Parties in the policy area of plant health to maintain common rules to protect plant health across GB / UK whilst facilitating trade in regulated plant material. Plant health policy is devolved. The Framework sets out new plant health governance arrangements across the UK Plant Health Service to maintain a collaborative approach now the UK has left the EU. It builds on existing, well established governance structures including the UK Plant Health Risk Group and UK Plant Health Policy Group.

- Issues to flag

The Framework has some connections with the Common Framework on Plant Varieties and Seeds in respect of shared functions (market access) and working groups on plant material where there are both plant health and PVS regulatory requirements (i.e., Forest Reproductive Material, seed potatoes and fruit material).

- Relevant legislation

The Framework is a statement of intent and is not legally binding. The

principle plant health legislation is as follows:

- The Plant Health Act 1967
- The Plant Health (Official Controls and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2019
- The Plant Health (Amendment, etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020
- The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020
- The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health, etc) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

- Significant differences between the provisional framework and phase 3 summary

There are no significant differences between the provisional framework and phase 3 summary.

- Stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholders received a Technical Engagement Summary of the Plant Health Framework for consideration and comment in November 2020. Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to provide feedback at a special meeting of the UK Plant Health Advisory Forum on 24 November 2020 specifically on the Summary document. Feedback has been supportive and there have been no specific issues or concerns raised.

Further engagement with Stakeholders will be undertaken after publication of the Framework.

- Any Scotland specific policy considerations or interests.

None