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The Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts CBE,  
Chair of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee  
Room 25  
West Front – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
House of Lords  
London - SW1A 0PW

11 November 2020

Dear Lord Hodgson,

**The Draft Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 and The Draft Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2020**

I am writing to clarify a matter that was raised by the Committee in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Report of Session, about the aforementioned Statutory Instruments.

The above class and draft affirmative Statutory Instruments were laid before Parliament on 19 October 2020 and subsequently considered by the Committee on 3 November.

The Committee asked the Department to clarify why some of the transitional provisions were being amended, whilst others were not. The Department responded that

*“For poultrymeat [The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) (No. 2) Regulations 2020], we have retained a 12-month transitional period as we do not currently enforce poultrymeat marketing standards, so will need sufficient time to operationalise the regime before being in a position to conduct the associated checks.”*

As a result of the response provided, the Committee drew attention to the Department’s explanation in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Report of Session.

Unfortunately, the Department's response did not provide sufficient context in replying to the Committee's query. The response should have been clearer in that it was referring to the legal requirement for poultrymeat marked with **optional indicators only** and not poultrymeat marketing standards checks in general. The response should therefore have read:

*“For poultrymeat [The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) (No. 2) Regulations 2020] marked with optional indicators, we have retained a 12-month transitional period as we do not currently enforce that aspect of the poultrymeat marketing standards in the absence of any products with such optional indicators entering the country from any of our current Third Country trading partners, so will need sufficient time to operationalise the regime before being in a position to conduct the associated checks.”*

In light of the above clarification, I would be grateful if the Department's revised response could be distributed to the members of the Committee and a correction issued. I understand that this will require you to publish the letter in one of the Committee's next reports and for a footnote to be added to the original report signposting this letter. With apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms R AHMED**

Head of Food, Farming Sectors and Trade

**Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

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