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Rt Hon Mr Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee
By email only

From Paul Kissack
Permanent Secretary

Dear Chair,

Defra Post Implementation Reviews (PIRs) – December update

In my predecessor's letter of 30 April 2025, Tamara Finkelstein committed to providing a further update on how Defra has been progressing with clearing our PIR backlog and delivering on future PIR commitments.

Since the last update, Defra has published 13 PIRs. This includes 8 PIRs from the previously reported backlog of overdue PIRs. So far in 2025, 35 PIRs have been published. This compares to 37 PIRs published in 2024, 25 PIRs published during 2023 and 1 published in 2022. Attached to this letter is a list of the PIRs published in 2023, 2024 and 2025 to date (**Annex A**).

Of the 10 overdue PIRs reported to the Committee in May 2025, 2 remain to be completed. The current list of remaining overdue PIRs (and their status) is attached (**Annex B**).

Since the last update, 4 PIRs were published in advance of their statutory deadlines. These were the PIRs for Agriculture (Model Clauses for Fixed Equipment) (England) Regulations 2015/950, the Nagoya Protocol (Compliance) Regulations 2015/821, the Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020/971 and the Seed Potatoes (England) Regulations 2015/1953.

1 PIR missed its statutory deadline in this period but has since been published. This was the PIR for the Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020/1095.

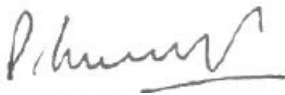
As a result, the overall backlog left to be cleared stands at 2 PIRs.

Reported backlog left to published	2
New PIRs added to the backlog left to be published	0
Total backlog to be published	2

The PIR for the Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018 will be published as soon as possible in 2026. The PIR for the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 is not currently being progressed as it falls in scope of EU Reset considerations and, as such, we are pausing work on it until later in 2026.

My officials continue to work closely with the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) Secretariat on the approach to PIRs, and I am copying this update to the Chair of the RPC, with many thanks for his recent commendation for Defra's performance published on the RPC blog. As the work to clear Defra's backlog winds down, we are turning our focus to ensuring the quality and timeliness of future PIRs via refreshing our processes and guidance for the upcoming programme.

I remain committed to ensuring that the backlog is cleared at the earliest opportunity and that Defra's statutory review obligations are met going forwards.



PAUL KISSACK
Permanent Secretary

ANNEX A: List of published PIRs in 2023, 2024 and 2025

PIRs Published in 2023, 2024 and 2025		Date Published
1	The Ringing of Certain Captive-bred Birds (England and Wales) Regulations 2017/1213	06/02/23
2	The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013/233	15/03/23
3	The Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015/776	02/05/23
4	The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations 2018/556	12/06/23
5	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016/1154	15/06/23
6	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016/1154 (Schedule 9)	03/07/23
7	The Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England and Wales) Regulations 2011/2292	20/07/23
8	The Grants for Fishing and Aquaculture Industries Regulations 2015/1711	20/07/23
9	The Bathing Water Regulations 2013/1675	01/09/23
10	The Reservoirs Act 1975 (Capacity, Registration, Prescribed Forms, etc.) (England) Regulations 2013/1677	07/09/23
11	The Reservoirs Act 1975 (Exemptions, Appeals and Inspections) (England) Regulations 2013/1896	07/09/23
12	The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006/2522	18/09/23
13	The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999/2228	18/09/23
14	The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007/1518	18/09/23
15	The Water Resources (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003/164	18/09/23
16	The Plant Health (Sweet Chestnut Blight) (England) Order 2017/178	19/10/23
17	The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits)(England and Scotland) Regulations 2015/787	27/10/23
18	The Equine Identification (England) Regulations 2018/761	15/11/23
19	The Cattle Identification Regulations 2007/529	21/11/23
20	The Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars (England) Regulations 2013/2775	22/11/23
21	The Common Agricultural Policy (Control and Enforcement, Cross-Compliance, Scrutiny of Transactions and Appeals) Regulations 2014/3263	28/11/23
22	The Caseins and Caseinates (England) Regulations 2017/848	29/11/23
23	The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013/2033	05/12/23

24	The Zootechnical Standards (England) Regulations 2018/1037	08/12/23
25	The Detergents Regulations 2010/740	14/12/23
26	The Sea Fishing (Points for Masters of Fishing Boats) Regulations 2014/3345	11/01/24
27	The African Horse Sickness (England) Regulations 2012/2629	12/01/24
28	The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011/988	14/03/24
29	The Tuberculosis (Non-bovine animals) Slaughter and Compensation (England) Order 2017/1254	20/03/24
30	The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Regulations 2012/178	04/04/24
31	The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011/2154	15/04/24
32	The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009/3219	15/04/24
33	The Water and Sewerage Undertakers (Exit from Non-household Retail Market) Regulations 2016/744	09/05/24
34	The Environmental Protection (Microbeads) (England) Regulations 2017/1312	16/05/24
35	The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007/1711	16/05/24
36	The Ship Recycling Facilities Regulations 2015/430	22/05/24
37	The Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008/2164	23/05/24
38	The Legislative Reform (Constitution of Veterinary Surgeons Preliminary Investigation and Disciplinary Committees) Order 2013/103	06/09/24
39	The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (England and Wales) Regulations 2007/79	23/09/24
40	The INSPIRE Regulations 2009/3157	24/09/24
41	The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019/1252	30/09/24
42	The Salmon and Migratory Trout (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (England) Order 2015/441	30/09/24
43	The Prohibition of Keeping or Release of Live Fish (Specified Species) (England) Order 2014/143	30/09/24
44	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England) (No. 2) Order 2021/548	30/09/24
45	The Wine Regulations 2011/2936	27/11/24
46	The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019/527	28/11/24
47	The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health Fees etc.) Regulations 2019/1488	10/12/24
48	The Official Controls (Plant Health and Genetically Modified Organisms) (England) Regulations 2019/1517	10/12/24
49	The Condensed Milk and Dried Milk (England) Regulations 2015/675	10/12/24

50	The Farriers' Qualifications (European Recognition) Regulations 2015/2072	11/12/24
51	The Fish Labelling Regulations 2013/1768	12/12/24
52	The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011/1197	12/12/24
53	The Water Industry (Charges) (Vulnerable Groups) (Consolidation) Regulations 2015/365	16/12/24
54	The Packaging Essential Requirements Regulations 2015/1640	16/12/24
55	The Organic Products Regulations 2009/842	17/12/24
56	The Country of Origin of Certain Meats (England) Regulations 2015/518	18/12/24
57	The Food Information Regulations 2014/1855	18/12/24
58	The Quality Schemes (Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs) Regulations 2018/1275	18/12/24
59	The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018/486	19/12/24
60	The Marine Licensing (Delegation of Functions) (Amendment) Order 2015/1674	20/12/24
61	The Water Supply and Sewerage Licences (Cross-Border Applications) Regulations 2016/181	20/12/24
62	The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) Order 2000/874	20/12/24
63	The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013/3113	09/01/25
64	The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005/894	13/01/25
65	The Veterinary Surgeons' Qualifications (European Recognition and Knowledge of Language) Regulations 2015/2073	13/02/25
66	The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012/3032	17/02/25
67	The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020/552	21/02/25
68	The Water Supply and Sewerage Services (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 2008/594	06/03/25
69	The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2012/1715	11/03/25
70	The Water Quality and Supply (Fees) Order 2016/303	12/03/25
71	The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016/614	27/03/25
72	The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016/618	27/03/25
73	The Water Infrastructure Adoption (Prescribed Water Fittings Requirements) (England) Regulations 2017/841	27/03/25
74	Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the	31/03/25

	obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market	
75	The Marketing of Fresh Horticultural Produce Regulations 2009/1361	08/04/25
76	The Quality Standards for Green Bananas (England and Wales) Regulations 2012/947	08/04/25
77	The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012/1657	10/04/25
78	The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011/2131	10/04/25
79	The Specified Diseases (Notification) (Amendment) (England) Order 2015/2023	15/04/25
80	The Diseases of Swine Regulations 2014/1894	15/04/25
81	The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015/810	25/04/25
82	The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015/668	28/04/25
83	The Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004/3202	28/04/25
84	The REACH Enforcement Regulations 2008/2852	28/04/25
PIR publications since April 2025 update		
85	The Designation of Features (Notices) (England) Regulations 2012/1693	02/05/25
86	The Designation of Features (Appeals) (England) Regulations 2012/1945	02/05/25
87	The Single Common Market Organisation (Emergency Aid for Milk Producers) Regulations 2015/1896	27/06/25
88	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017/1012	08/07/25
89	The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017/1013	08/07/25
90	Disease Control (England) Order 2003/1729	21/07/25
91	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018/731	22/07/25
92	Agriculture (Model Clauses for Fixed Equipment) (England) Regulations 2015/950	08/09/25

93	Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020/971	29/09/25
94	Nagoya Protocol (Compliance) Regulations 2015/821	27/10/25
95	The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020/1095	06/11/25
96	The Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order 2011/2883	02/12/25
97	The Seed Potatoes (England) Regulations 2015/1953	17/12/25

ANNEX B: Remaining backlog

Overdue PIR		Status
1	The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018/151	Undergoing Ministerial clearance
2	The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013/2952	Scoping