

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name

Name of organisation or business :

Northway Mushrooms Ltd

4 The Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs would like your permission to publish your response as part of the survey results. Please indicate your preference.

Publish response

Agriculture Bill

Clause 1 – Aid in the fruit and vegetables sector (FVAS): amendment of CMO Regulation

5 Do you agree with the power's provided in this clause to allow the Department to continue with the FVAS on a discretionary basis only and to remove the current requirement for all eligible claims to be funded?

No

If no, please explain:

Whilst we understand the need to bring the bill in to allow any new support mechanism to be put in place, we have a major problem with agreeing to this whilst no replacement scheme has yet been identified. Until this is done with proper scrutiny by stakeholders and legislators we do not believe the bill should progress

Clause 2 – Aid in the fruit and vegetables sector: power to modify

6 Do you agree with the power being conferred on the Department by Clause 2 to make regulations as described above?

No

If no, please explain further:

In essence we have the same reply as the prior question. Whilst we understand there may be in future a need to bring in such a power to allow any new support mechanism to be put implemented we have a major problem with agreeing to this whilst no replacement scheme has yet been identified. Until this is done with proper scrutiny by stakeholders and legislators we do not believe the bill should progress

Clause 3 – Information provision and promotion measures: power to modify

7 Do you agree with the power being conferred on the Department by Clause 3?

No

If no, please explain further:

Again again same issue. Until the details of any replacement scheme is brought forward to allow proper scrutiny by stakeholders and legislators we do not believe that this power should be conferred.

Clause 4 – Regulations

8 Do you agree that the regulations made under this Bill may contain the above wide-range of provision's?

Yes

If no, please explain further:

No problem with this, as long as we know the detail of the replacement scheme that these provisions apply to

9 This clause also provides that regulations under the Bill can only be made following approval by the Assembly. Do you agree that the regulations in this Bill can only be made following approval by the Assembly?

Yes

If no, please explain further:

Yes, we strongly believe this is a necessary requirement

Clause 5 – Interpretation

10 This clause provides interpretation of terms used in the Bill, including that “modify” includes amend, repeal or revoke. Do you agree with the term ‘modify’ as interpreted in the Bill?

No

If no, please explain further:

Although modify has a straightforward meaning, the broad and absolute range of powers that this gives to the term, we find quite alarming, again given that no detail on any replacement scheme the clause

General

11 Do you feel that the Bill if enacted will have any direct costs to you or your organisation?

Yes

If yes, please explain further:

No details on any replacement scheme is given, possibly no scheme at all! Given that our competitors in Republic of Ireland, Europe and now Scotland will have access to a continuing FVAS scheme while we may not poses a direct threat to the mushroom sector in Northern Ireland

Producer Organisations (PO)

12 Are you or your organisation currently a member of a Producer Organisation (PO)?

Yes

13 If no, have you ever been a member?

Not Answered

If yes, please explain why you or your organisation left the PO :

14 If no, would you ever consider becoming a member of a PO?

Not Answered

If no, please explain your reasons :