



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

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Exotic Animal Diseases Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

January 22nd 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on the Introduction of Quarantine Units (QUs)

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales on the proposed introduction of a general standstill exemption for farms using Quarantine Units. Natural Resources Wales works as a regulator, partner and advisor to businesses, non-governmental organisations, Local Authorities and communities to help deliver Welsh Government and European Union policies and priorities. Our purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.

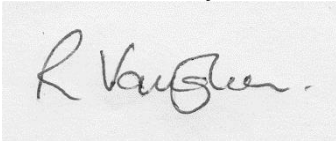
We acknowledge that the introduction of quarantine units provides livestock managers with greater clarity and an additional option to minimise the impact of animal disease outbreaks on the environment whilst giving them flexibility to trade. However, we are concerned that problems with farm manure, washings into rivers, incorrect drainage connections and surface water runoff and poaching may occur and could potentially damage the environment without sufficient best practice guidance and support – particularly around the requirement for separate effluent management.

As a regulator we are responsible for the protection of habitats and endangered species and we are the competent authority for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Wales. We have a duty to ensure that the requirements of Environmental Permitting Regulations, the UK Air Quality Strategy, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act are met.

Given our remit, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with WG to discuss and advise on the content of best practice guidance and other documents, prior to publication. Our advice would cover the protection and sustainable use of habitats, species, water, soil, landscape and public access.

If you have any questions about our response or require further information, please contact Buddug Jones (contact details are at the top of the letter).

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Vaughan".

Robert Vaughan
Sustainable Land, Farming and Forest Management