



Brexit: Plant and Animal Biosecurity (2018)

The future for the UK's biosecurity planning and infrastructure once outside the EU



1. RSB advice to Committee (extract):

“Biosecurity breaches at local or national scale can have profoundly negative effects on the economy and society as a whole”, “effective monitoring, surveillance and detection of patterns of disease occurrence is required [...] to address biosecurity threats arising from both human activity and natural phenomena.”

“Responsive and well-resourced capacity to deliver biosecurity requirements at UK borders will be needed”, “following Brexit, the recruitment of staff with specialist skills to the UK workforce could become more difficult...”

2. Committee recommendations to Government:

“Plant and animal diseases, and invasive non-native species, are a constant threat to the UK's ecology and economy. Ensuring effective biosecurity measures are in place is therefore of great and lasting importance.”

“Without adequate plant and animal health inspectors at the border, it will not be possible to maintain the UK's biosecurity. We recommend that the Government review the skills required to maintain biosecurity, and publish it's findings and it's plans for addressing any gaps, as a matter of urgency.”

3. Government's decision:

“[The Government] is committed to maintaining high standards of biosecurity in the UK. We treat this as a strategic priority...”

“Defra is working closely with the Home Office to ensure that there is a long term strategy for biosecurity workforces as part of the future immigration policy.”

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