

RX/GEN/277

CONFIDENTIAL

20 AUG 1986

Mr Robinson

for .
Miss Lupton
to note + file
f. 20/8

QUERY FROM THE NAAFI REGARDING THE IMPORT OF FOODSTUFFS INTO
NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr S R Armstrong suggested I write you a short note following an approach to the Department by the NAAFI, based at Palace Barracks, Holywood.

The query came from Mr Eric Charnley, the NAAFI's area produce buyer, and concerned the Department's requirements for the import of foodstuffs (fresh and processed) into Northern Ireland.

Following recent IRA threats to those supplying foodstuffs to the security forces Mr Charnley had been asked to set up contingency plans whereby the Army's needs could be met from sources outside Northern Ireland. He was anxious to point out that it was the Army's intention to fully comply with all our import regulations. It would only be in, what he described as an "emergency situation", that they would take whatever action they felt necessary to obtain essential food supplies. He added that at present they were receiving all their requirements locally.

In response to the query Animal Health Division undertook to send a letter explaining our import policy in general terms. A copy of this letter, minus its enclosures, is attached for information.

P J BRUNSKILL

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Eric Charnley Esq
Produce Buyer
NAAFI Regional Office
Palace Barracks
Holywood

20 August 1986

Dear Mr Charnley

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1981 AS AMENDED
LANDING OF CARCASES AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1985
DISEASES OF ANIMALS (IMPORTATION OF POULTRY) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1965 AS
AMENDED

Your recent telephone enquiry about importation of foodstuffs from Great Britain refers.

Under the terms of the above-named legislation this Department has requirements for the importation of items of animal and poultry origin.

These requirements are designed to protect Northern Ireland's valuable livestock and poultry industries from the risk of introduction of serious animal and poultry diseases which are not present in Northern Ireland. The requirements are implemented by a system of general and specific import licences.

General licences are used for the vast majority of meat and meat products, fully cooked poultrymeat products and dairy products. Each licence sets out the conditions of import for that particular item and usually requires some form of Veterinary Health Certification to accompany consignments. Specific licences are applied in instances where animal or poultry disease risk is considered to be greater and the Department feels it necessary to monitor imports closely. This latter type of licence is issued to individual importers. It would apply to fresh poultrymeat and eggs from Great Britain.

You enquired if any item was excluded from import into NI. Basically there is no item that is banned from import into NI but what we are concerned about is where the product or its ingredients originate. There are certain sources of fresh meat and meat-based products which would not be acceptable to Northern Ireland. These sources are mainly South American and the Eastern European countries.

Acceptable sources are British Isles, Member States of European Community, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden or USA. This is reflected in the veterinary health certification requirements outlined in the licences.

As I explained to your Secretary, we would require details of particular items you wish to import in order that we can advise you fully of import conditions for that particular item.

In the meantime, as discussed with your Secretary, I enclose copies of general licences which are in operation for importation from Great Britain of UHT, sterilised, or pasteurised milk, cream, milk-based drinks and dried milk products.

Also enclosed is a copy of the specific licence which sets out the current requirements for importation of eggs from Great Britain.

Some Dairy items are exempt from licensing requirements. These are: butter, cheese, yoghurt, condensed and evaporated milk.

Please contact me again if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'N' and 'B' joined together in a cursive style.

N BECK (Mrs)
Animal Health Division

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