

E: php@gov.scot

Consultation: Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme (PHEATS)

23 October 2023

Dear consultee,

This consultation seeks your views on whether it would be beneficial for your business to join the 'Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme' (PHEATS). PHEATS is a voluntary exports trade facilitation scheme designed for the export of low-risk fruit, vegetables and cut flowers to the EU and Northern Ireland. PHEATS has been in operation in England and Wales since 2021, and the Scottish Government has worked constructively with DEFRA to ensure Scottish businesses can also benefit by joining this scheme.

Further detail on the scope of PHEATS, how it operates and its costs are provided in the attached consultation papers. These are the 'partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment', and 'Information Document for Potential PHEATS Members'.

It is vital that the Scottish Government has evidence that PHEATS is a viable, robust and effective scheme of interest for Scottish businesses to join. In this consultation we are seeking the views of businesses that would potentially benefit from the introduction of PHEATS in Scotland, and by providing us with vital feedback.

This consultation paper, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages on [Citizen Space](#) and on the Scottish Government [website](#).

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by **23 October 2023**.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/plant-health-exports-audited-trader-scheme>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of **15 December 2023**.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form to:

SASA Policy, Pesticide Survey Unit
Scottish Government
Saughton House
SPUR D

Broomhouse Drive
EDINBURGH
EH11 3XD

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at php@gov.scot.

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals

- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Deans".

Steven Deans – Policy Officer

**Plant Health Export Audited Trader
Scheme (PHEATS)****Respondent Information Form**

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email Address

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes

No

Questionnaire

Question 1

Do you see your business joining PHEATS? If not, why?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 2

What are your view(s) on the suggested Scottish Government PHEATS proposals (including the fees)?

Question 3

Are there any positive or negative impacts the introduction of PHEATS' could have on your business, or the wider supply chain?

- Positive impact
- Negative impact
- Both positive and negative impact

Please give reasons for your answer.

Question 4

If you decide to use PHEATS, which countries would you be exporting to, and how often? I.e. regularly (please state), or another pattern?

Question 5

Do you have any other comments about PHEATS?