



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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Countess De La Warr
President
Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society
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Your ref: 136910
Our ref: PO2020/30784/AD

9 December 2020

Dear Lady De La Warr,

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister about registering Shetland ponies from the Republic of Ireland in the UK Studbook. Your letter has been passed to Defra and I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 permits a breeding programme in one EU Member State to be extended into another Member State, allowing that breeding body to register animals held within those Member States. Following our exit from the European Union the UK is no longer a Member State and therefore, following the Transition Period, will no longer have access to the extended breeding programme mechanism. This means that from 1 January 2021 any animal that is not physically in the UK should also be registered into an equivalent breeding book in the EU, and from that date you will no longer be able to issue a Zootech Certificate or equine passport for it.

The inability of UK breeding bodies to register animals held within the EU is not a decision that has been taken by the UK Government, but is aligned with the rules in the EU Regulation. For this to change the European Commission would have to legislate a change to their law to allow Third Countries to extend their breeding programmes into the EU, and this is not something that is being considered.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more positive reply.

*Yours sincerely,
John Gardiner*
