

**TRADER NOTICE No. 2 OF 2023**

**28 April 2023**

**To:** All registered professional operators, importers & exporters of plants and plant products

**Subject:** DAFM consultation on Contingency Plans for Priority Pests

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is conducting a stakeholder consultation process on Contingency Planning for Priority Pests. As part of the consultation process, you as a stakeholder are requested to provide your views on any aspect of the generic and/or pest specific contingency plans.

#### **What is a Priority Pest?**

A priority Pest as described by the Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 Article 6 (1) is a Union Quarantine Pest to which additional rules apply as its introduction and spread would have potentially serious economic, environmental or social consequences for the Union territory. There are 20 priority pests listed in the legislation.

#### **What is a Plant Health Contingency Plan?**

The purpose of a Plant Health Contingency Plan is to set out the procedures to be followed and the measures to be taken in the event of an outbreak of a regulated pest, which could have the potential to cause significant economic, environmental and social impact.

Contingency plans aim to ensure that the effects of a finding or outbreak would be minimised, and that eradication and control measures would be implemented in a timely and effective manner.

The Department has produced a generic Plant Health Contingency Plan which sets out the generic approach and action required in the event of pest outbreak. Fifteen pest specific contingency plans have been produced for the Priority Pests of relevance and significance for Ireland, together with a Priority Pest Fact Sheet which provides information on the pest concerned.

#### **Why is DAFM undertaking this consultation exercise?**

As required by The Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 Article 25(1), Ireland and all EU Member States is required to draw up a contingency plan for each priority pest which can enter and become established in that Member States territory. Stakeholder consultation is a requirement of the Contingency Planning process.

#### **What am I being asked to do?**

As part of the consultation process stakeholders are requested to provide their views on any aspect of the generic and/or pest specific contingency plans – available on <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/d95a3-department-consultation-on-contingency-plans-for-priority-pests/>

Returns can be made to [planthealth@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:planthealth@agriculture.gov.ie)

**The consultation period is opened from 28<sup>th</sup> April until 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 at 5pm.**