

- **Framework ownership**

- Framework name: Plant Varieties and Seeds Common Framework
- Responsible portfolio Minister: Mairi McAllan, Minister for Environment and Land Reform
- Framework lead policy team (incl. contact details): Carol Scott, SASA Policy and PSU Team, ARE.
 - Committees that the framework is being actively shared with:
 - Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee
 - Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee (for subject interest)
 - Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (for wider Frameworks programme interests)

1. Points for the Parliamentary committees to note

a. Procedural

- Date of ministerial sign-off of the provisional framework: The published version of the provisional framework was agreed by UK portfolio Ministers in January 2022.

b. Content

- Purpose of the framework

The Framework sets out arrangements for co-operation between the Parties in the policy area of plant varieties and seeds (PVS). This area covers intellectual property rights of plant breeders, plant variety registration, setting standards for marketing and certification of seed and other plant propagating material and ensuring that these standards are upheld.

- Issues to flag

The Framework has some connections with the Plant Health Common Framework in respect of shared functions (market access) and working groups on plant material where there are both plant health and PVS regulatory requirements (i.e., Forest Reproductive Material, seed potatoes and fruit material).

- Relevant legislation

The Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964 provides Ministers in UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government with regulation making powers to regulate seed and other plant propagating material. That Act extends to Northern Ireland (limited to seeds by an Order in Council of 1973); DAERA also has regulation making powers under the Seeds Act

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Secondary legislation for the certification of seeds and plant propagating material is made separately for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for agricultural and vegetable seed, fruit plant and propagating material and seed potatoes. GB-wide and NI legislation exists in three crop sectors: ornamentals, vegetable plants and forest reproductive material.

The Framework provides for a full list of legislation in Annex 1, Part C.

- Significant differences between the provisional framework and phase 3 summary

There are no significant differences between the provisional framework and phase 3 summary.

- Stakeholder engagement

In December 2020, Scottish Government placed the 'Stakeholder and Explainer Documents' for the Framework on the SASA website, sending a link to industry and individuals who certified seeds or plant propagating material in Scotland, applied for UK plant breeders' rights, or GB variety listing. We also met in person with the National Farmers Union, Scotland; AIC Scotland (agricultural industries confederation); the Scottish Seed Trade Association (SSTA); and British Society of Plant Breeders' (BSPB). There were no concerns provided at the meeting and no comments received in response to the documents on the website.

Defra, DAERA and Welsh Government also carried out their own individual consultations. Only one minor comment regarding a horticultural scheme was received by Defra.

Updated copied of the 'Stakeholder and Explainer Documents' have been provided as requested. These will be sent out to our Stakeholders after publication of the Framework. Changes to these documents reflect those provide by way of the Light Touch review.

- Any Scotland specific policy considerations or interests.

None