19 September 2019

PLANT HEALTH (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2019

Dear Mr Farrell,

I am writing to you in response to a question asked by Maureen Watt MSP on Wednesday 11 September 2019, regarding public information on the number of imported oak trees into Scotland infested with Oak Processionary Moth (OPM).

In Scotland, there have been 6 interceptions on recently imported trees planted in: Angus, Edinburgh, Fife, Inverness and Glasgow, published information can be found on the Forest Research website.

Statutory Plant Health Notices were issued and a total of 86 trees from the impacted consignment on those sites were treated and destroyed. Inspectors in Scotland visited 110 sites where the high-risk trees identified in this piece of legislation had been planted, 105 sites were found to be without evidence of OPM.

Following information on interceptions in other parts of the UK we quickly implemented strengthened protection by introducing emergency measures to restrict the movement of larger oak trees, deemed the highest risk of OPM. This has drastically reduced the number of potential OPM interceptions and reduced the resource heavy requirements for inspection.

Kind regards,

Debbie Kessell
Branch Head of Plant Health,
Horticulture, Seeds and Potatoes policy team.