



Plant Health Fees Review

Members Meeting 20 02 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

Summary

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/latest-news/stakeholder-engagement-on-proposed-changes-to-plant-health-fees/>

- Consultation launched on 27 January, runs for 12 weeks, closes 21 March
- Accessible via the Plant Health Portal news section
- Defra proposes 3 options for trade
 - Each 'scheme' attracts its own increase, between 26% and 79% in Autumn 2025
 - Across the board inflationary increase of 27.5%
 - Phased in Inflationary increase – 20% in Autumn 2025, 2nd increase in Spring 2026, subject to consultation but likely to be 10

Engagement

- HTA met fees team & economist to go through the detail
Initial feedback to Defra ;
 - Timing is poor, business costs rising, border has issues, businesses not getting value they pay for, document is light on income
- There are Defra webinars scheduled for next week
- There is an in person event being held in Peterborough on 6 March

Specific questions for Defra

- More detail required
- No figures showing spend & income in the interim years between 2019/2020 & 2023/24
- Official Control Regulations state reviews & charges should attain “high level of transparency”
- What are “hard charges” and “central overheads” in detail
- Why are we paying for IPAFFS(& PHES) depreciation costs
- Consignment figures stated for 2019 & 2023 – nothing in between
- Inspection detail lacking - state 209,000 inspections for 2023 but not what they were
- E.g. Section 4: Imports. Table shows inspection cost has risen from £2.1m in 2019 to £6.1m in 2023 but what was the income for that category?

Potential HTA position

Need member input / direction

Are increases actually palatable in real terms?

E.g. importing 100 consignments a year would increase costs @£7.51 per consignment (£751.10 per year)

e.g. Plant Passport audit will go up by £49.26 from £246.32 per hour to £295.58

- Suggestions: -
 - Propose subsidy over a longer period, phased in to ensure full cost recovery within 5 years?
 - Other solutions?

Website

www.hta.org.uk/policy



The horticulture media caption is provided as a placeholder for the content. The text is too small and blurry to be transcribed accurately. It appears to be a short paragraph or list of bullet points related to the manifesto.



Thank you

Borders & Plant Health updates

- 31 January 2025 – Safety & Security Declarations required. hauliers & carriers are responsible
- Plant Health Fees Review – including import inspections, & plant passporting audits
- Temperature shock mitigations in place at Harwich & Felixstowe BCPs
- Sevington BCP - "drive-bys" will receive an official enforcement visit
- Potential re-export of goods that can't be unloaded e.g. arriving on cattle trucks
- "Large load" derogation for BCPs came in on 30 January 2025
- NI Horticulture Working Group – looking at issues one by one. WF to be fully implemented.
- Bans on prohibited species to the EU gradually being lifted
<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/exports/exports-to-the-eu/export-of-high-risk-plants-to-the-eu-2/>
- EFRA Select Committee enquiry into animal & plant health / biosecurity at the border

Public Affairs – Borders & Trade Activity

- SPS (Plant Health) Agreement work
 - Working with EU counterparts
 - Draft documents including MP briefing
 - What would we want?
- Joint FPC letter to Minister <https://hta.org.uk/news/>
- MP template letter <https://hta.org.uk/policy/member-briefings>



Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Fourth Floor
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Thursday 17th October 2024

Dear Baroness Hayman,

We write jointly as the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) and Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) following our roundtable meeting on plants, cut flowers and the border on 4th October 2024.

At that meeting you sought representations on solutions for the challenges and risks the UK's border policy is presenting to our sectors. As we set out, the trade in both edibles—like fresh fruits and vegetables—and non-edible plants—including cut flowers, planting materials, finished plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, and seeds—faces significant challenges. Rising logistics costs, damaged goods, delays, increased waste, and cumbersome paperwork have hindered our ability to invest in growth. This situation has led to reduced consumer choice, strained business relationships, a tarnished UK business reputation, diminished confidence in border processes, compromised food security, and setbacks in achieving our environmental targets.