



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 24/23

# Movement Assistance Scheme: MAS Extension until June 2025

**Date issued: 02 October 2023**

### Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that a further extension to the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) has been announced until 30 June 2025.

### Background

The Movement Assistance Scheme was developed in late 2020 to support traders moving agri-food commodities and live animals from GB to NI, who faced new requirements from 1 January 2021 under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

This includes:

- Providing advice and guidance to inform traders of new requirements and how to satisfy them through the main APHA helpline.
- Providing a charging remuneration scheme that waives and/or covers the direct certification costs traders would otherwise incur for movements of agri-food goods from GB-NI.

Products covered under the scheme include but are not limited to:

- Live animals
- Products of animal origin
- Plants and plant products
- Some categories of high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin
- Organic products

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Industry feedback has highlighted the importance of MAS in enabling the continuation of trade to NI whilst businesses adapt to the new requirements and realign their supply chains as a result.

Most recently, reimbursement costs relating to *Brucella ovis* testing and [costs relating to the Scrapie Qualifying Scheme] have been included in MAS.

Since MAS was launched in December 2020 until the end of May 2023, to support traders and certifiers moving agri-food goods from GB to NI, Defra reimbursed the costs of over 68,292 Export Health Certificates.

The scheme was scheduled to end in December 2023.

## What is changing?

MAS has been extended until 30 June 2025. This aligns with the full implementation of the Windsor Framework.

MAS will continue to accept claims for reimbursement / waiving of qualifying costs incurred on movement of goods up to 30 June 2025.

There will of course be no certification cost for moving goods under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

There will be no change to existing processes.

## Information

You should continue to use the guidance and procedures outlined within GOV.UK and the APHA Vet Gateway.

More details of this scheme expansion are included in a [MAS Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document.