

To: All Students

Animal Disease Control and Trade
Policy Branch
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Keep devastating animal and plant diseases out of Northern Ireland

I am writing to all students to urge you to play your part in protecting Northern Ireland (NI) against the risk of introducing animal or plant disease through the import of Products of Animal Origin (PoAO) or plant materials.

There are strict rules about bringing food products, plants and plant products into NI from outside the EU for personal consumption or use. Rules apply whether food products are being imported in luggage or coming by post or courier. They apply if they're for yourself, bought in a shop (including at an airport), home grown, homemade or vacuum packed.

Diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) can be brought into NI via animal products (particularly those containing meat or milk). Animal-related products may also pose a risk to human health, for example, fish, honey and untreated animal hides.

All fresh plant material including fruit, vegetables, plants with roots, flowers, bulbs and seeds may carry pests that can infect plants and vegetables. Untreated wood products may harbour wood-boring insects and soil can carry serious soil-borne diseases.

Should any of these diseases or pests be detected in NI, they would have a devastating impact on our local economy. Our farming livestock, crops and the environment would all be put at risk as well as affecting unemployment levels and trade with other countries.

If you are packing your bags to come and study in, or return to, the UK please don't pack any food or plants which fall into the above categories. This would include fresh, dried and cured pork or wild boar meat such as sausages, bacon, meatballs, pate, ham, salami, jerky, bakwa and rougan. In addition products made of pork fat or wild boar fat, such as lardo and salo are also prohibited. It is also illegal to bring meat, cheese or milk into the UK from most countries outside of the EU. If your family or friends are sending you gifts by post please ask them not to send any animal or plant products.

A list of illegal products can be found [here](#) and a link to the DAERA personal import leaflet is available [here](#). A video explaining the restrictions on bringing plants into the EU can also be viewed [here](#).

Please be advised that DAERA officials carry out regular compliance checks at NI ports, airports and parcel distribution centres and as such you may be prosecuted and fined if you are found to be bringing or receiving any illegal products into NI.

Please play your part in helping us to keep animal and plant disease out of NI. Remember **"If in doubt – Leave it out!"** Thank you.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours faithfully



Jim Blee

Animal Disease Control and Trade Policy Branch