

# Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

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AMENDMENTS  
TO BE MOVED  
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

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**Clause 1**

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

Clause 1, page 1, line 14, at end insert –

“(2A) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c) an organism’s genome could not have resulted from traditional processes or natural transformation if that organism is, or the processes used to create it are, subject to patent protection.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This is a probing amendment examining how, where a genetic technology breeding process for any living organism has been granted a patent under international or national law, it can be the result of a traditional process or a natural transformation since novelty is required for granting such a patent.*

**Clause 4**

BARONESS PARMINTER

Clause 4, page 4, line 10, at end insert –

“(ia) in relation to precision bred animals, a written undertaking to use best endeavours to keep a continuing record of clinical outcomes, and adverse effects and outcomes, of the precision bred animals and their qualifying progeny, and to supply such records and other required information to the Secretary of State, and”

**Clause 7**

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH

Clause 7, page 6, line 8, at end insert –

“(4A) Information requested by the advisory committee may include, in cases where the precision bred organism is likely to be used for the purposes of agriculture,

an assessment of the likely changes to agricultural processes arising from the use of that organism.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment is designed to probe potential consequential impacts of a precision bred organism being rolled out in an agricultural setting. If the use of new crop variants were to result in changes to field rotation, for example, there could be consequences for wildlife, soil quality, and so on.*

**Clause 12**

BARONESS PARMINTER

Clause 12, page 8, line 40, at end insert –

“(d) whether scientific research or practical experience with other animals that have similar traits indicates that risks, other than those identified by the notifier, could reasonably be expected to result from the precision bred traits to the health or welfare of the animal or its qualifying progeny.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment would ensure that the welfare advisory body would consider not just the welfare risks that the notifier has chosen to focus on, but other risks that have been identified by the scientific literature or practical experience with other animals that have similar traits, for example as a result of selective breeding.*

**Clause 18**

BARONESS PARMINTER

Clause 18, page 12, line 28, at end insert –

“(aa) records of clinical outcomes, and adverse effects and outcomes, of the precision bred animals and their qualifying progeny (see section 4(1)(a)(ia));”

BARONESS PARMINTER

Clause 18, page 13, line 14, after “is” insert –

“(a) kept up to date, comprehensive and accurate, and  
(b) ”

**Clause 25**

BARONESS PARMINTER

Clause 25, page 16, line 26, at end insert –

- “(1A) In making regulations under this section the Secretary of State must consider and evaluate (among other things) the possible direct or indirect adverse impact of precision bred traits on the –
- (a) respiratory system,
  - (b) cardiovascular system,
  - (c) immune system,
  - (d) bone strength,
  - (e) mobility, and
  - (f) ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- of precision bred animals and their qualifying progeny.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment specifies the key factors that must be considered when making regulations under Clause 25. The factors proposed are those that are commonly adversely affected by selective breeding. The amendment does not limit the scope of the factors that may be included in the regulations as it states that these factors are to be considered “among other things”.*

**Clause 26**

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH

Clause 26, page 18, line 14, at end insert –

- “(8A) Regulations under this section may not confer functions on the Food Standards Agency unless a Minister of the Crown has laid before both Houses of Parliament a statement confirming that, in the Minister’s opinion, the Food Standards Agency has the resource and expertise required to undertake those functions.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment is designed to probe whether the FSA has sufficient resource and expertise to undertake the additional responsibilities envisaged in this Bill.*

**Clause 27**

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Clause 27, page 18, line 29, at end insert –

- “(3A) A Minister of the Crown may not lay regulations under subsection (1) unless they have laid before both Houses of Parliament a report of a public consultation on a food and feed register.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment is designed to probe what preparatory work has been undertaken on the planned food and feed register, and whether there will be any further formal consultation on it.*

**After Clause 40**

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

After Clause 40, insert the following new Clause—

**“Five-year review**

- (1) Within the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must review the effectiveness of this Act and its implementation.
- (2) The Secretary of State must publish and lay before both Houses of Parliament a report following the review.”

**Clause 48**

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH

Clause 48, page 30, line 27, at end insert “, but may not be brought into force unless the Secretary of State has laid before both Houses of Parliament a statement outlining whether, in consequence of this Act—

- (a) the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002,  
or
- (b) the Environmental Protection Act 1990,

require further amendment, to facilitate the release and marketing of precision bred plants and animals.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment is designed to probe whether the coming into force of Clause 41, which excludes precision bred organisms from certain measures in the Environmental Protection Act 1990, is likely to require any further review of that Act, or the associated GMO Regulations of 2002.*

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

Clause 48, page 30, line 27, at end insert—

- “(4A) Regulations may not bring Parts 2 to 4 or sections 39 to 41 into force—
- (a) in relation to plants, prior to 1 January 2026,
  - (b) in relation to farm animals, prior to 1 January 2029, and
  - (c) in relation to other animals, prior to 1 January 2032.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This amendment is designed to probe the Government's proposed sequencing for the application of precision breeding technologies to plants and animals. At Second Reading, the Minister said the department would adopt "a step-by-step approach".*

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*7 December 2022*

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