



# Topical Digest

## The Windsor Framework

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# Constituency Casework Guide

## The Windsor Framework

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**This Topical Digest covers the recent publication of ‘The Windsor Framework: a new way forward’. This framework was agreed in principle by the UK Government and the European Union on 27 February 2023.**

**The digest brings together a snapshot of some of the recent commentary and analysis of the framework with a particular focus on how these changes may affect the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol and future EU/UK relations.**

**Should MLAs or their constituency staff have suggestions for information they would like to see in the guide, or have links to useful sources that they would like to share, please feel free to contact the Research and Information Service at: [RLS@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:RLS@niassembly.gov.uk)**

Front cover image: The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak holds a joint press conference with the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in Windsor Guildhall.

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## 1 Key documents

The [Windsor Framework: A New Way Forward](#) was agreed in principle on 27 February 2023. It seeks to amend the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol in order to ‘uphold Northern Ireland’s integral place in the United Kingdom, address the democratic deficit and set out a new way forward’.

Opposition to the Protocol concerning trade and sovereignty issues led the UK Government to introduce [the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill](#) in June 2022. Following publication of the Framework Agreement, the UK Government has stated [a legal position paper](#) (February 2023) that the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill will no longer be needed.

## 2 The Windsor Framework – Sector Explainers

[Food Retail Green Lane](#)

[Goods moving from NI to GB](#)

[Goods moving GB-NI – Green Lane](#)

[Human Medicines](#)

[Post & Parcels](#)

[NI Pet Travel](#)

[Plants, Seeds and Used Agricultural and Forestry Machinery](#)

[VAT and Excise](#)

## 3 The European Union

A European Commission landing page on the [Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland: The Windsor Framework](#) contains information on the framework, the main elements of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol, a statement by President von der Leyen, press releases, a factsheet and information on the consent mechanism.

## 4 UK Government/EU news releases

- European Commission: [A new way forward on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: political agreement in principle on the Windsor Framework](#) (27 February 2023)
- European Commission: [Questions and Answers: political agreement in principle on the Windsor Framework, a new way forward for the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland](#) (27 February 2023)
- Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street: [Windsor Framework unveiled to fix problems of the Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (27 February 2023)
- Speech: [PM speech on the Windsor Framework: February 2023](#) (27 February 2023)

## 5 UK Parliament

- House of Commons Library: [The Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (accessed 3 March 2023). Landing page for Commons Library publications related to the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol, including the Windsor Framework, Article 16, and related research on Northern Ireland politics.
- House of Commons Library Research Briefing: [Northern Ireland Protocol: The Windsor Framework](#) (28 February 2023)
- House of Lords Hansard: [Stormont Brake](#) (2 March)
- House of Lords Hansard: [Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Bill](#) (2 March 2023)
- House of Lords Hansard: [Official Controls \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2023](#) (1 March 2023)
- House of Lords Hansard: [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (28 February 2023)
- House of Commons Hansard: [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (27 February 2023)

## 6 Selection of media and other articles

- [There will be no Westminster revolt over the Windsor Framework](#) The Irish Times (7 March 2023)
- [DUP unlikely to reach decision on revised Northern Ireland deal until April](#) The Guardian (6 March 2023)
- [New Brexit trading rules could take more than two years to bed in fully](#) The Guardian (5 March 2023)
- [If Windsor Framework ushers in NI prosperity, Sinn Féin's unity bid could be scuppered](#) Sunday Independent (5 March 2023)
- [DUP reaction to Windsor Framework could drive us towards a border poll](#) Sunday Life (5 March 2023)
- [Brexit: Why four PMs have accepted the Irish Sea border](#) BBC News (4 March 2023)
- [Paisley 'on a solo run' with rejection of UK-EU deal DUP distances itself from MP's comments in 'think tank's' report](#) Belfast Telegraph (3 March 2023)

- [Cold reality hitting home for DUP as trade deal to happen with or without its approval](#) Belfast Telegraph (3 March 2023)
- [Heaton-Harris says protocol deal 'decisively takes back control from Brussels'](#) Irish News (3 March 2023)
- [Windsor Framework gives enough to end Stormont stalemate, says Keir Starmer](#) Irish News (3 March 2023)
- [Editorial: Fringe unionist voices shouldn't dominate Westminster Framework debate](#) Irish News (3 March 2023)
- [DUP seeks to distance itself from Paisley's downbeat Windsor Framework reaction](#) Irish Times (3 March 2023)
- [Stormont Brake explained: What it does, how it works, and what anti-Northern Ireland Protocol politicians think of it](#) News Letter (3 March 2023)
- [Sunak's Brexit deal under pressure after opposition from Boris Johnson and DUP](#) The Guardian (2 March 2023)
- [What is the Stormont Brake? The new veto in the Windsor Framework deal](#) Belfast Live (28 February 2023)

## 7 Commentary and analysis

- Slugger O'Toole: [Does anyone actually know what the Stormont Brake is? Some questions partially answered...](#) (6 March 2023)
- Slugger O'Toole: [DUP form eight-member party panel to examine Windsor Framework](#) (6 March 2023)
- EU Law Analysis. [Just Say No? The new 'Stormont Brake' in the Windsor Framework](#) (5 March 2023)
- Slugger O'Toole: ['There comes a time to seal the deal': a DUP member's take on the Windsor Framework...](#) (3 March 2023)
- UK in a Changing Europe: [Playing it practical – Rishi Sunak's Brexit strategy](#) (3 March 2023)
- UK in a Changing Europe: [The Windsor Framework: a new hope or a great betrayal?](#) (2 March 2023)
- Euractiv: [Cleaning up after Johnson](#) (2 March 2023)
- Centre for the Union: [Windsor Framework Legal Advice](#) (1 March 2023)
- Centre for Brexit Studies: [Brexit's Broken Britain and the Northern Ireland Protocol](#) (1 March 2023)
- Centre for European Reform: [Does the Windsor deal herald warmer ties between Britain and the EU?](#) (1 March 2023)
- Conservative Home: [The King and von der Leyen. A storm in a Windsor tea cup](#) (1 March 2023)
- The Grocer: [What the Windsor Framework really means for food businesses](#) (1 March 2023)
- Brexit Institute: [The Windsor Framework – Does it 'cut the mustard'?](#) (28 February 2023)

- Brexit Institute: [The Windsor Framework: or The Law & Politics of Reconnecting the UK to Europe](#) (28 February 2023)
- Brexit Institute: [The Protocol Deal: A 'Just Like That' Moment Seven Years in the Making](#) (28 February 2023)
- Centre for Brexit Studies: [Brexit's Comic Pay-Off](#) (28 February 2023)
- Centre for the Union: [DUP Response to the Windsor Framework | Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP](#) (28 February 2023)
- Centre for the Union: [TUV Response to the Windsor Framework | Jim Allister KC MLA](#) (28 February 2023)
- Global Britain: [Sunak's Duke of Windsor Agreement Deserves to be Exiled](#) (28 February 2023)
- Institute of Export and International Trade: [The Windsor Framework: Key takeaways for traders](#) (28 February 2023)
- Institute for Government [The Windsor Framework improves the protocol – now the UK and EU need to make it work](#) (28 February 2023)
- Institute for Government: [Explainer: The Windsor Framework](#) (28 February 2023)
- UK in a Changing Europe: [The Windsor Framework – a quick evaluation](#) (28 February 2023)
- Centre for European Reform: [The Protocol deal is a win for Sunak – and the EU](#) (27 February 2023)
- Logistics UK: [Logistics UK reacts to Northern Ireland Protocol announcement](#) (27 February 2023)
- Retail NI: [Retail NI Response to EU-UK Agreement](#) (27 February 2023)
- Briefings for Britain: [Sunak's Northern Ireland Sell out](#) (9 February 2023)
- EU-UK Forum: [Sunak's Protocol deal shows the Brexit tide is turning](#) (February 2023)

## 8 Useful links

Assembly Questions on the topic of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland can be accessed via [this link](#), or by navigating to the AIMS Portal on the Assembly website.

For more information, or to contact the Research and Information Service, please use the weblink or QR code overleaf.

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