

Mr Philip McGuigan MLA, Chairperson Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC)

REF: DSC 54/24

18 April 2024

All Members

Issued via email to: Post Box

Regulation (EU) 2023/2419: Published New EU Act on the labelling of organic pet food

At its meeting on 21 March 2024, the Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) considered correspondence sent to the Committee Clerk from the Windsor Framework Taskforce at the Cabinet Office regarding <u>Regulation (EU) 2023/2419: Published New EU Act on the</u> <u>labelling of organic pet food</u>.

The correspondence indicated that the European Commission had confirmed its intention to seek to add the Act to the list of EU laws applicable here under the Windsor Framework through the Article 13(4) Joint Committee process.

Further, the correspondence indicated that the Assembly would be notified of the Act under paragraph 19(2) of Schedule 6B of the 1998 Act, subsequent to further discussions with the European Commission, and at the earliest opportunity.

The DSC has no explicit function to carry out inquiries or any other scrutiny in response to a notification that a new Act has been published. However, as the DSC was informed of this new Act in advance of the notification, and, in light of the fact that if the Assembly had been carrying out its normal business when this new Act was originally proposed, the DSC could have examined the proposal, the DSC agreed to conduct an initial examination of the Act to inform a possible plenary debate on any applicability motion brought before the Assembly.

Specifically, the DSC considered a written departmental assessment of impact; heard oral evidence from departmental officials; and, sought views from key representatives of businesses and civil society identified as being affected, or who would be affected, if the Act is added to the Windsor Framework.

Evidence

A copy of the written departmental assessment of impact can be found here.

The Hansard of the departmental oral evidence session can be found here.

Should the DSC receive any responses to its request for views from key representatives, they will be published <u>here</u> on the Friday before the plenary debate on any applicability motion brought before the Assembly.

I hope you find this information useful.

Le meas,

Philp ME Sugar MLA

Philip McGuigan, MLA Chairperson, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee