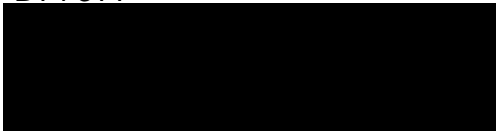


Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3TT



Marie Austin
Committee for TEO
Room 412
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
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24 June 2020

Dear Marie

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2020 which followed the briefing session by officials on the same day.

You asked on behalf of the Committee that *“In relation to meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee [EN], Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee and the Specialised Committee on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol, a copy of the agendas and details of issues Ministers/officials plan to raise, as soon as meetings are confirmed”*

Our positions in relation to these requests are set out below:

Joint Ministerial Committee (EN)

- The Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) (JMC(EN)) was established by the four administrations as a body to facilitate political engagement and collaboration between the four governments. The date and timing of each meeting, and the agenda, must be agreed by Ministers from each of the four administrations. For the meeting held on the 21st May the meeting time and agenda was confirmed 24 hours before the meeting took place.
- TEO Officials will undertake to advise the Committee of the date and time of the meeting and the agenda as soon as this has been agreed by all of the four administrations.
- A written update on the key points made by Ministers can be provided to the Committee following each meeting.

Joint Committee/Specialised Committee

- Agendas for both the Joint Committee and Specialised Committee may not be available publically but where this is the case, a copy will be provided to the Committee.

- Representatives of the Executive will only be invited to join both meetings if representatives of the Irish Government are also in attendance. If Executive Ministers or NICS officials are invited to attend either the Joint Committee or the Ireland/Northern Ireland Specialised committee an update on any contribution they are invited to make can be provided to the Committee as part of the EU Exit update.

You also requested “*Details of the work that needs to be carried out by the Executive to implement the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, as outlined in the UK’s Command Paper, and the progress to date.*”

The position in relation to this matter is:

- The Withdrawal Agreement, of which the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol is part of, is an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union. As International Relations is an excepted matter under the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the implementation of the Protocol is a matter for the UK Government.
- The Executive has agreed to engage with the UK Government on the legal requirements for the movement of agri-food goods specifically as this falls within our devolved responsibility.
- The Executive has agreed that the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs would lead on the agri-food requirements of the Protocol with the support of a cross Departmental group. It has been confirmed to Cabinet Office that the necessary work would be taken forward with DEFRA, Cabinet Office and the NIO.

Ministers have also noted that going forward the Committee has asked that Junior Ministers provide the monthly update on EU Exit matters to the Committee

Yours sincerely





Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Executive Office

[REDACTED]
Stormont Castle
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3TT

27 May 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Briefing: Brexit Issues

At its meeting on 27 May 2020, the Committee for the Executive Office received a briefing from departmental officials on Brexit issues. Following the briefing, the Committee agreed to request:

- In relation to meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee [EN], Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee and the Specialised Committee on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol, a copy of the agendas and details of issues Ministers/officials plan to raise, as soon as meetings are confirmed.
- Details of the work that needs to be carried out by the Executive to implement the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, as outlined in the UK's Command Paper, and the progress to date.

The Committee also agreed that, going forward, Junior Ministers should provide monthly oral briefings to the Committee on Brexit issues. Junior Ministers will attend the Committee meeting on 24 June 2020, but I will contact you to make the necessary arrangements for future briefings.

I should be grateful for a response by 10 June 2020.

Yours sincerely

Marie Austin
Clerk to the Committee for the Executive Office