



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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Colin McGrath MLA
Chair, Northern Ireland Assembly Committee
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Northern Ireland Assembly
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Our reference: MC2020/21000

Per Colin,

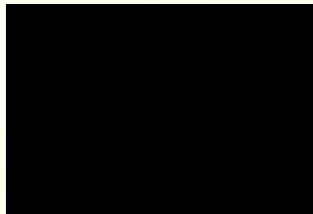
6th January 2021

Thank you for your letter of 4 December requesting the Finance Bill. I would like to apologise for my delayed response.

As you will know, since you wrote there have since been significant developments within the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee (WAJC). I have updated the House of Commons on this on 9 December 2020. The UK Government's Command Paper, 'The Northern Ireland Protocol', laid in Parliament on 10 December 2020, provided further detail.

The agreement in the Joint Committee provided the assurances we needed to remove clauses 44, 45, and 47 from the UK Internal Market Bill, and to avoid including similar measures in the Taxation Bill.

With every good wish,



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Executive Office

The Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and
Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS
United Kingdom



4 December 2020

Dear Michael

WESTMINSTER FINANCE BILL

At the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Executive Office meeting on 2 December 2020, Members made reference to the Finance Bill that is due to be tabled in Westminster next week.

Some Members expressed concern around media reports that the Bill contains controversial clauses that would override the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement. Particular reference was made to the reported clause that would give the UK Government unilateral power to decide which goods being exported from Britain to Northern Ireland would be deemed “at risk” of entering the Republic of Ireland.

The Committee agreed to request clarification on the content of the Bill and the implications for Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed to request an urgent response.

Yours sincerely



Colin McGrath MLA Chairperson,
Committee for the Executive Office

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