



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Department fur
Commonities

**Private Office
Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Our ref: GM-1280-2021
Date: 04 October 2021

Michael Potter
Committee for the Executive Office Clerk
Room 375a, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Dear Michael

ARTICLE 2 OF THE PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/ NORTHERN IRELAND AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON PAY TRANSPARENCY

Thank you for your letter of 16 September, requesting what consideration under Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland the Department for Communities will undertake in relation to the proposal under pay transparency.

As you will be aware, this proposed Directive does not amend or replace any of the six Directives listed Annex 1 of the Protocol, and therefore does not automatically fall within the scope of Article 2. As such, and as set out in paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the Protocol, it is a matter for the European Union and the Whitehall Government, through the Joint Committee, to decide whether this particular Directive falls under the scope of Article 2.

Once a determination has been made on this issue, the Department for Communities will consider any domestic legislative provisions which may be required. Steps that can be taken to address the gender pay gap, including reporting, are being considered in the ongoing development of the Gender Equality Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Private Office



Committee for the Executive Office

[REDACTED]
Communications and Executive Support
Stormont Castle
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3TT

16 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

ARTICLE 2 OF THE PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/ NORTHERN IRELAND AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON PAY TRANSPARENCY

At its meeting on 9 June 2021, the Committee for the Executive Office considered correspondence forwarded by the Assembly EU Affairs Manager to the Committee from the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in respect of a European Commission proposal for a Directive on pay transparency.

Following this meeting the Committee then wrote to The Executive Office to ask what consideration under Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland/ Northern Ireland the Department would undertake in relation to the proposal under pay transparency.

The Department's response was as follows:

'The European Commission on 13 June presented a proposal on pay transparency to ensure that women and men in the EU get equal pay for equal work. This is a gender policy issue and therefore a matter for DfC to respond to in respect of implications of Article 2.'

As The Executive Office has referred this matter to the Department for Communities, I am therefore requesting what consideration under Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland/ Northern Ireland the Department for Communities will undertake in relation to the proposal under pay transparency.

I have included the original correspondence from the Assembly EU Affairs Manager to the Committee for the Executive Office for your reference.

I would appreciate a response by **30 September 2021**.

Yours sincerely

Michael Potter

Michael Potter Clerk, Committee for the Executive Office

**Committee for the Executive Office
Room 375a, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX**

Telephone: (028) 9052 1019

E-mail: Committee.Executive@niassembly.gov.uk