



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Declan McAleer MLA
**Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

Sinead McLaughlin MLA
Chairperson, Committee for The Executive Office
Committee for The Executive Office
Room 375a
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Emailed to: committee.executive@niassembly.gov.uk

27 January 2022

Dear Sinead,

RE: COMMITTEE VIEWS ON COMMON FRAMEWORKS

I write on behalf of the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (AERA) further to your letter of 20 January 2022 seeking the Committee's views and experience of the Common Framework scrutiny process.

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 27 January 2022 and agreed to highlight the following issues:

- The information provided to the AERA Committee by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in respect of the expected timelines for Common Framework publication has been unclear and ambiguous, which has made forward planning of scrutiny activities challenging
- The Committee was not consulted with about the March 2022 deadline for scrutiny activities and considers that this is insufficient time to facilitate extensive and adequate scrutiny of all Common Frameworks,

particularly given that 14 of the 15 Frameworks under DAERA's remit are yet to be made available to the Committee

- The Committee team has liaised with colleagues in the Scottish and Welsh administrations who share similar concerns about the inability to meet the outlined scrutiny deadline
- The quality of the documentation provided to the Committee thus far in relation to the Common Framework Summaries and published Framework (Radioactive Substances) is limited. Detail is lacking in some areas and indications are made that further information will be published in due course or in another document. This makes it difficult to carry out fulsome scrutiny
- Some components of the Common Framework Summaries the Committee has had sight of thus far concern very specific policy areas and some of the language therein is overly technical
- There is little to no mention within the documentation of steps taken by DAERA or the UK Government to engage with officials in Ireland to consider all-island issues in respect of Northern Ireland's position

I trust this information will be useful to the Committee for The Executive Office in providing feedback on this process.

Yours sincerely



Declan McAleer

Chairperson
Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Northern Ireland
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Committee for the Executive Office

Declan McAleer MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Room 328 Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3TT

20 January 2022

Dear Declan,

COMMON FRAMEWORKS PROGRAMME

At its meeting on 19 January 2022, the Committee for the Executive Office considered correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager in relation to the current status of the Common Frameworks programme.

The UK Government and devolved administrations have agreed to aim to complete delivery of the Common Frameworks programme in March 2022, ahead of the pre-election period for the 2022 Northern Ireland Assembly elections. You may be aware there are 32 Common Frameworks relating to Northern Ireland, 18 of which are still to be provided to the relevant Assembly Committees for scrutiny.

There are 15 Common Frameworks to be considered by the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs which can be seen below:

Committee	Common Framework	Status/documents received by Committee
AERA	Implementation of EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Agricultural support	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Agriculture - fertiliser regulations	Awaiting provisional framework

AERA	Agriculture - organic farming	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Agriculture - Zootech	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Animal health and welfare	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Fisheries management & support	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Ozone depleting substances and Fgases	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Plant Health	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Plant varieties and seeds	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Resources and Waste	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Radioactive substances	Committee scrutiny stage
AERA	Air Quality	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA	Best available Techniques	Awaiting provisional framework
AERA/Economy	Chemicals and Pesticides	Awaiting provisional framework
Economy	Mutual Recognition of professional qualification (MRPQ)	Awaiting provisional framework
Economy	Services Directive	Awaiting provisional framework
Economy	Company law	Committee scrutiny stage
Economy	Specified quantities and packaged goods	Awaiting provisional framework
Economy	Late payment (commercial transactions)	Committee scrutiny stage
Finance	Public procurement	Committee scrutiny stage
Health	Organs, tissues and cells (apart from embryos and gametes)	Committee scrutiny stage
Health	Public health protection and health security	Committee scrutiny stage
Health	Blood Safety and Quality	Committee scrutiny stage
Health	Food Compositional Standards and Labelling	Awaiting provisional framework
Health	Food and feed safety and hygiene law	Committee scrutiny stage

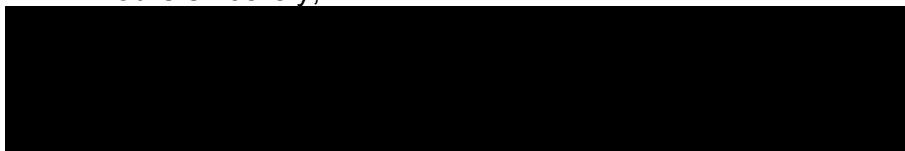
Health	Nutrition Labelling, Composition and Standards	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Hazardous substances planning	Implemented
Infrastructure	Commercial Road Transport and Operator licensing	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Rail technical standards (interoperability)	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Driver licensing	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Roads - Motor Insurance	Committee scrutiny stage

As the Executive Office has an overarching co-ordination role on EU Exit matters, the Committee agreed that I should write to all Statutory Committees for their views regarding their experience of the scrutiny of Common Frameworks. In particular, timing, quantity and quality of information received by you or the Department you scrutinise for any Common Frameworks received. A brief overview will suffice.

This information will be collated and sent to the Executive Office and the House of Lords Common Frameworks Committee to ensure that the relevant feedback from the Northern Ireland Assembly Statutory Committees is fed into the overall Common Frameworks process.

Given that the proposed deadline for completion of all Frameworks is March 2022 I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Sinéad McLaughlin MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office

Committee for the Executive Office
 Room 375a, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX
 Telephone: (028) 9052 1830
 E-mail: Committee.Executive@niassembly.gov.uk