



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee for Finance



From: Peter McCallion, Clerk to the Committee for Finance
Date: 28 January 2022
To: Michael Potter, Clerk to the Committee for The Executive Office

Common Frameworks Scrutiny

At its meeting of 26 January 2022, the Committee for Finance considered your correspondence seeking its view regarding its experience of the scrutiny of Common Frameworks.

There is one Common Framework within the Department of Finance which is Public Procurement. The Committee has previously undertaken scrutiny of the relevant framework which is now approaching formal sign-off by ministers.

This is a non-legislative framework which is high-level in nature. The Committee sought and received general assurances that the Framework will have no interaction with the NI Protocol etc. or other recent policy changes by Cabinet Office in respect of below threshold procurements.

The Committee also noted that the Framework makes reference to a dispute resolution process between UK jurisdictions but that details of the final outcomes of such processes could not be provided. This was described as being the subject of an ongoing Inter-Governmental Review.

Thus, as the Framework is quite high-level and procurement reform is the subject of ongoing Westminster legislation and in the absence of clarity from the Department around dispute resolution and given the general Departmental assurances around the interaction of the Framework in respect of the NI Protocol etc., the Committee found that it could only make limited related observations.

I trust that the above provides the information that you sought.

Regards

Peter McCallion





Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Executive Office

Steve Aiken MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Finance
Room 301 Parliament Buildings
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20 January 2022

Dear Steve,

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 is 1 Common Framework to be considered by the Committee for Finance 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

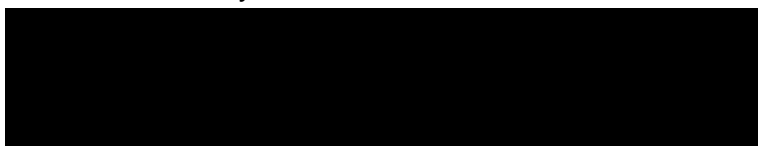
Health	Nutrition Labelling, Composition and Standards	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Hazardous substances planning	Implemented
Infrastructure	Commercial Road Transport and Operator licensing	Committee scrutiny stage
Infrastructure	Rail technical standards (interoperability)	Committee scrutiny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

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