



Cabinet Office

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██████████
Senior Assistant Clerk, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee
Room 371, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

29 May 2025

Dear ██████████,

Proposal for a Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Thank you for your letter, dated 8 May 2025.

Regarding the above proposal, as it currently stands, certain provisions contained within the proposal will apply in Northern Ireland under Article 13(3) of the Windsor Framework, if adopted by the EU institutions and then published. In particular, amendments to Regulation (EU) 2017/625, which is contained within Point 43 of Annex 2 of the Framework, are likely to fall under Article 13(3) application.

As the legislation is currently in proposal stage, the exact articles or provisions which would fall under Article 13(3) may change depending on the text of the final legislation. Following publication, the Government will provide further explanatory materials based on the final text.

Any application of additional articles or provisions of this proposal under Article 13(4) could only occur following a joint UK-EU decision at the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee. Such a decision on the part of the UK Government would be subject to the safeguards in Schedule 6B to the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The UK would need to be formally notified that the EU wished to add articles or provisions of the regulation under Article 13(4), which could only take place after the proposal is adopted and published.

We trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,


**DEPUTY DIRECTOR
WINDSOR FRAMEWORK TASKFORCE**



[REDACTED], Senior Assistant Clerk
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny
Committee (DSC)

Ref: DSC 91/25

8 May 2025

[REDACTED]
Windsor Framework Taskforce, Cabinet Office

Issued via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Proposal for a Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625

At its meeting on 8 May 2025, the Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) considered a proposed EU act on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM/2023/411).

The DSC received legal advice and heard departmental oral evidence on the proposed EU act.

The DSC noted that the UK Government Explanatory Memorandum states, *"If this proposed regulation is adopted, it would apply in Northern Ireland, as the existing GMO regulations and EU Regulation 2017/625 on controls are part of the limited number of EU laws that apply directly in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework."*

Further to this and the legal advice, Members agreed that I should write to you to ask for clarification on whether the proposed Regulation would apply under Article 13(3), Article 13(4), or both these articles of the Windsor Framework.

I would appreciate a response by 22 May 2025.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Senior Assistant Clerk
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee