



Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Ciara Ferguson MLA
Chairperson
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny
Committee

By email: wftf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Our reference: MC2025/15677
Your reference: DSC 197/25

Dear Ciara,

20 th October 2025

Thank you for your letter of 19 September, regarding a proposal for a regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

I note the evidence provided at the Committee by the Ulster Farmers' Union and the British Agriculture Bureau. My officials will continue to assess the proposal, and will provide the Committee with an explanatory memorandum in line with our scrutiny commitments.

The Independent Review, conducted by Lord Murphy, reflects the Government's commitment to securing the broadest possible confidence of communities in Northern Ireland. The Government looks forward to considering Lord Murphy's recommendations and will provide a response before the legal deadline. We will ensure that the Committee is kept abreast of our response when it arrives, and I look forward to reading its considerations of the recommendations.

The Government is committed to the protection of the UK internal market and the implementation of the Windsor Framework. This includes continued support of the vital work of the Committee, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister for the Cabinet Office have already written to their ministerial colleagues to emphasise the importance of providing timely information for both Parliamentary and Assembly committees.

Thank you for taking the time to write about these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Thomas-Symonds

RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL



Mrs Ciara Ferguson MLA, Chairperson
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny
Committee (DSC)

REF: DSC 197/25
19 September 2025

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office
Issued via email to: wftf-sq@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Nick, a chara,

Proposal for a Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

At its meeting on 18 September 2025, the Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) considered the above proposed EU act and heard evidence from the Ulster Farmers' Union and the British Agriculture Bureau. This proposed Regulation began its EU legislative passage before the Committee was established and the Committee has agreed to gather evidence on it, in anticipation of a likely notification once it is adopted and published. Evidence received by the Committee to date can be found [here](#). The Committee agreed to share the Hansard of the evidence session with the British Government, once it is available.

The Ulster Farmers' Union and British Agriculture Bureau raised a number of concerns regarding the proposed EU act, and commented on a lack of engagement from the British Government and NI Executive.

The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Office, in light of the recommendations in the Independent Review of the Windsor Framework¹, to ask how it is considering the recommendations to give additional capacity and support to the NI Civil Service. The Committee also requests information on how the UK Government is supporting the UK Mission to the EU and the UK Civil Service, so they can in turn support the work of this Committee.

The Committee intends to give further consideration to the recommendations in the Independent Review and would write to you again in due course.

I would appreciate a response by 17 October 2025.

Le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ciara Ferguson".

Ciara Ferguson, MLA
Chairperson, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee

¹ [Independent Review of the Windsor Framework - GOV.UK](#)