



HOUSE OF LORDS

Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee

House of Lords
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Justin Madders MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
(Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets)
Department for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London SW1A 2DY

17 July 2025

Dear Minister,

COM (2025) 503: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/14/EC, 2011/65/EU, 2013/53/EU, 2014/29/EU, 2014/30/EU, 2014/31/EU, 2014/32/EU, 2014/33/EU, 2014/34/EU, 2014/35/EU, 2014/53/EU, 2014/68/EU and 2014/90/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards digitalisation and common specifications.

COM (2025) 504: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 765/2008, (EU) 2016/424, (EU) 2016/425, (EU) 2016/426, (EU) 2023/1230, (EU) 2023/1542 and (EU) 2024/1781 as regards digitalisation and common specifications.

We write in relation to the Explanatory Memorandum, dated 18 June 2025, on the above proposals within scope of the Windsor Framework. The House of Lords Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee considered this document at its meeting on 16 July 2025.

We note the EM states that the proposals have “the potential to introduce a difference in approach for products in NI and for the EU rules we currently recognise in GB, with some, but not all, UK product rules still requiring physical documentation.” What are the implications of this potential divergence for Northern Ireland business and consumers?

We further note that “the Government is considering the direction of UK regulation in this area” and your commitment to work “with business and consumer groups” to “consider the EU’s proposals, as well as potential options for UK policy development.” We would be grateful if you would keep the Committee updated as UK policy in this area develops.

We would be grateful for a response before Parliament returns after the summer recess. In the meantime, we maintain our interest in this document.

I am copying this letter to Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Chair of the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Ciara Ferguson MLA, Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Windsor



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Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee and Phillip Brett MLA, Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Economy.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC,

Chair, Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee