



The Rt Hon Steve Baker MP  
Minister of State  
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Mr Philip McGuigan MLA, Chairperson  
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee  
Room 371, Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw,  
Stormont,  
Belfast, BT4 3XX

28 March 2024

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your letters to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 7 and 14 March 2024 respectively. I am responding to both in my capacity as the Minister of State in the Cabinet Office with responsibility for Windsor Framework implementation.

I can confirm that my officials will pause the weekly notifications of relevant EU replacement acts on Thursday 28 March and resume them on Thursday 4 April as requested. Moving forward, I believe it would be most straightforward to communicate these matters and those relating to notification processes administratively. I would also be content for either you or, I suggest, the Clerk of the Committee to notify my officials in the Cabinet Office when the Committee has elected to request a pause.

I note the separate request of the Committee for the UK Government's analysis of the *Proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury*. I can confirm to you that it is the Government's intention to provide an Explanatory Memorandum to the Committee. I would expect this to be provided in the coming weeks, and I trust this will assist the Committee in any inquiry it chooses to hold.

I also note from your meeting on 14 March that there was a discussion over whether to write to the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee or the separate Joint Consultative Working Group (JCWG). A letter subsequently issued to the officials in the UK JCWG Secretariat.

As it is the Government that is under legal obligations under the NI Act 1998 where the Assembly conducts democratic scrutiny - which affects the position Ministers can take at the Joint Committee - I would ask that any representations to this effect are made to Government Ministers please.

I am copying this letter to the Clerk of the Democratic Scrutiny Committee and the Speaker's Office for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Baker', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**The Rt Hon Steve Baker MP**  
**Minister of State**