

Department of Justice response to DSC questions on Regulation (EU) 2025/41 on import, export and transit measures for firearms, essential components and ammunition – 29 January 2025

From: Stewart, Jennifer
Sent: 29 January 2025 17:21
To: +Windsor Framework Committee Public Email
<WindsorFramework.Committee@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Regulation (EU) 2025/41 on import, export and transit measures for firearms, essential components and ammunition

Good afternoon

Please see responses to the questions from DSC.

Regards

Jennifer

Questions

1. You have stated that the Department of Justice was involved in discussions with UKG on an early draft of the proposed Regulation and that, as the matter is not within your area of responsibility, you provided general observations. What were your general observations? As a result of those discussions, did you make any assessment of the impact on the everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland of applying/not applying the Regulation, and whether that impact was likely to persist?

DoJ observations (July 2024)

1. Import/export matters are not transferred, so outside DoJ's area of policy and legislative responsibility.
2. The proposal to include additional measures seemed sensible to prevent illicit import/export/transit of firearms.
3. Amendments may be required to the Firearms (NI) Order 2004.
4. How will the UK demonstrate compliance in respect of NI?
5. Will UKG have access to EU information systems?

We did not have any further discussions with UKG after providing the initial observations and we have not made any assessment of impact.

2. Can you confirm that the import and export controls and procedures for firearms covered by the Regulation would apply to relevant GB-NI and NI-GB movements? Can you provide figures on these movements?

Import/export matters are not transferred and are therefore outside DoJ's area of policy and legislative responsibility.

The Department for Business and Trade has responsibility for import/export matters.

We do not hold any information on movements between GB/Ni and Ni/GB.

3. Can you explain how the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland would be impacted by the Regulation?

DoJ cannot provide an explanation, import/export matters are not transferred and are therefore outside DoJ's area of policy and legislative responsibility.
The Department for Business and Trade has responsibility for import/export matters.

4. Is there evidence of illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms involving Northern Ireland? If so, do you have any information on the extent of that activity?

DoJ does not hold this information. However, we have asked PSNI whether they have any relevant information to share.

5. UKG has stated that the Regulation will lead to regulatory divergence between GB and NI. What is your assessment of the impact of such divergence on Northern Ireland?

DoJ has not undertaken an assessment of the impact of such divergence on Northern Ireland as it is outside DoJ's area of policy and legislative responsibility.

6. Are you aware of any plans by UKG to update the assimilated (retained) version of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012?

We are not aware of any plans by UKG to update the assimilated (retained) version of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012.

7. Can you tell us whether the Regulation has been discussed in the Joint Consultative Working Group or any of the structured sub-groups established under the Windsor Framework? Can you inform us about these discussions?

DoJ is not represented at the Joint Consultative Working Group and has not been informed of any discussions taking place.