



Department for the

**Economy**

An Roinn

**Geilleagair**

[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

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**Our ref: OC DfE 01/25**

**Your Ref: DSC 50/25**

**Date: 21 01 2025**

Dear Jessica

**Regulation (EU) 2024/3110 laying down harmonised rules for the marketing of construction products and repealing Regulation (EU) No 305/2011**

Further to your letter dated 16 January 2025, please see response below which has been cleared by Minister Murphy. Elements of this information may be withheld under Section 35, Formulation of Government Policy.

According to the [Inter-Departmental Business Register \(IDBR\)](#) in 2024 there were 71,425 businesses across all industries in the North that had less than 10 employees, which was 89% of the total business population of 80,045 businesses.

In 2024 there were 10,725 businesses in the construction industry here with less than 10 employees. This was 94% of businesses in the construction industry. The total number of businesses in the construction industry was 11,375.

The IDBR covers most of the economy including the Agriculture, Production, Construction and Service sectors here. It does not, however, include very small

businesses which fall below the VAT and PAYE thresholds. This means that many self-employed workers will not be included on the IDBR.

The Department for the Economy has had no engagement on CPR is unable to provide a view regarding whether the simplified procedures would be effective in reducing the burden and costs on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and micro-enterprises.

Yours sincerely

**GARY FINLAY**

**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**



Jessica Jacques, Senior Assistant Clerk  
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny  
Committee (DSC)

**Ref:** DSC 50/25

16 January 2025

Gary Finlay  
DALO, Department for the Economy

Issued via email to: [gary.finlay@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:gary.finlay@economy-ni.gov.uk)

Dear Gary,

**Regulation (EU) 2024/3110 laying down harmonised rules for the marketing of construction products and repealing Regulation (EU) No 305/2011**

The Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) is currently holding an inquiry into Regulation (EU) 2024/3110. At its meeting today (16 January 2025), it heard evidence from officials from the Department of Finance, Department for Infrastructure, and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. It also considered an [updated Explanatory Memorandum](#) from the UK Government on the Regulation.

There is provision in the Regulation for simplified procedures for micro-enterprises (employing fewer than 10 people with an annual turnover less than €2 million). Officials in attendance and the UK Government were unable to provide the Committee with further information on this category and the provision's impact in relation to Northern Ireland. Therefore, the DSC agreed that I should write to you to ask:

- How many Northern Ireland businesses would fall into the micro-enterprise category?
- In the Department's view, would the simplified procedures be effective in reducing the burden and costs of the Regulation on SMEs and micro-enterprises?

The DSC works to tight statutory deadlines and must agree its final inquiry report at its meeting on 23 January 2025. I would therefore request a response by 22 January 2025 (COB) to allow for this information to be considered by the DSC during its inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

*Jessica Jacques.*

**Jessica Jacques, Senior Assistant Clerk  
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee**