



Cabinet Office

**Windsor Framework Taskforce**  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

E [wttf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wttf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

[cabinetoffice.gov.uk](https://cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Marie Austin  
Committee Clerk, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee  
Room 382, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast, BT4 3XX

16 January 2025

Dear Marie,

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

Thank you for your letter dated 10 January 2025.

In regards to the above Regulation, an Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which sets out the Government's view of the legislation, and impacts it will have for Northern Ireland. This document has been attached along with this letter.

Having carefully considered the questions raised by the Committee in your letter, I can confirm that the Explanatory Memorandum attached addresses many of these points. However, there are a few specific areas I wish to cover here for the Committee's benefit.

Regarding the question on the scale of trade in construction products between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, we will note that a high-level figure is unlikely to provide conclusive insights into the impact the Regulation will have. This is because the size of the construction trade is not reflective of the extent to which the Regulation may benefit or impact individual businesses, which cannot be modelled uniformly - especially given the exemptions for small businesses that are contained within the Regulation and which the Committee has noted. I would also note that this information is not held by the Cabinet Office and relevant public bodies would need to be engaged to see if any modelling had been undertaken.

Similarly, on the point covering micro-enterprises in Northern Ireland, whilst the Government welcomes the Regulation taking into account the unique needs of small businesses, this is not data that we would be able to provide. For the same reasons as above, instead we would encourage the Committee to engage with the relevant public authorities.

To answer the question on engagement with the European Commission, the Government regularly engages with the EU on a range of different Windsor Framework related matters. I can confirm that Regulation 2024/3110 has been discussed with the EU prior to its adoption,



# Cabinet Office

**Windsor Framework Taskforce**  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

E [wftf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wftf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)  
[cabinetoffice.gov.uk](https://cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

and those conversations facilitated the drafting of the EM provided to you today. I would note the points made in the Explanatory Memorandum as to consultation conducted on the regulation.

Finally, I note that the Committee has asked as to the Government's evaluation of the impacts of the Regulation. I recognise that this, and the consideration of the Regulation's scope and content, is particularly pertinent to the Committee's work and that it will want to consider the matter further. I would also highlight the Government's conclusion in the Explanatory Memorandum that the revised CPR, combined with planned domestic reforms, is not likely to result in significant impacts in the terms mentioned.

We trust that the information provided will be of use to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**PAUL FLYNN**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WINDSOR FRAMEWORK TASKFORCE**



Marie Austin, Committee Clerk  
Windsor Framework Democratic  
Scrutiny Committee (DSC)

**Ref: DSC 30/25**  
10 January 2025

Edmund Ramsden, Windsor Framework Taskforce, Cabinet Office

Issued via email to: [wftf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wftf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk);

Dear Edmund,

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

At its meeting on 9 January 2024, the Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) considered Regulation (EU) 2024/3110 and agreed to conduct an inquiry into the EU act.

The Committee agreed that the following questions be forwarded to you for response – I appreciate that some of the questions will be answered as part of an updated Explanatory Memorandum. However, you are asked to respond separately to all the question posed below:

**Risk of regulatory divergence**

- To what extent would the changes made in the updated (2024) EU Regulation on the marketing of construction products lead to regulatory divergence within the UK?
- [UKG announced in September 2024](#) that it would continue to allow construction products bearing the CE mark to access the GB market pending “system wide reform” of the current construction products regulatory regime. Does UKG also intend to align with the new EU Construction Products Regulation to ensure a coherent regulatory framework in all parts of the UK?
- The Building Safety Act 2022 gives UK Ministers powers to regulate the marketing and supply of construction products, including in Northern Ireland. What progress has been made to date in reviewing the existing regulatory regime for construction products? Do you anticipate that future regulatory reforms made by UKG might go further than the EU Construction Products Regulation? How might different regulatory regimes in Northern Ireland and Great Britain affect the movement of construction products between Northern Ireland and Great Britain?

## **Costs, benefits and impact of the updated Regulation**

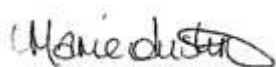
- What is the scale of trade in construction products between Northern Ireland and Great Britain? How might the updated Regulation affect this trade and existing supply chains?
- What assessment has been made of the costs of the updated Regulation for (i) Northern Ireland businesses manufacturing construction products; (ii) Northern Ireland businesses procuring construction products; (iii) Northern Ireland public sector bodies procuring construction products; and (iiii) market surveillance and enforcement bodies in Northern Ireland?
- What assessment has been made of the potential benefits of the updated Regulation in terms of enhanced building safety?
- Overall, do you consider that applying, or not applying, the updated Regulation would have a significant impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist?
- 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.) How many NI businesses would fall into this micro-enterprise category? Do you consider that these simplified procedures would be effective in reducing the burden and costs of the updated Regulation on SMEs and microenterprises?

## **Engagement**

- What steps have you taken to identify and engage with stakeholders in Northern Ireland and in the UK who may be affected by the updated EU Regulation? Can you summarise what you have learned so far from this engagement?
- How much engagement has there been within the Windsor Framework structures, notably the Joint Consultative Working Group and the Special Body on Goods, on the changes to the EU's Construction Products Regulation and on the UK's plans for reform of its domestic construction products regulatory regime?

I would appreciate a response in advance of the DSC meeting which will take place on 16 January 2025. The reason for the short response time is because the Committee will hear evidence on impact from departmental officials on 16 January 2025. However, the officials have already indicated that because the EU act concerns a reserved policy area, they have limited remit.

Yours sincerely,



**Marie Austin, Committee Clerk**  
**Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee**