

Regulation (EU) 2026/1744 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026 amending Regulations (EU) 2024/1689, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2023/1230 as regards the simplification of the implementation of harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Digital Omnibus on AI) (Article 3 only) – Follow Up Response from DSC Meeting 13/08/2026

Jonathan Buckley MLA: “It states that the UK Government’s assessment is that the immediate impact on NI businesses is likely to be limited as relatively few machinery products are currently expected to meet the high-risk threshold. As it’s relatively few, can you outline what type of machinery products they would be, and what particular companies would be involved in their manufacture or distribution?”

Through the stakeholder engagement we did in Belfast, we were not able to identify any NI businesses making products that would fall into this category and therefore involved in their manufacture or distribution. Attendees suggested that such products are even rare globally. There was one anecdotal suggestion that technology is being developed (I believe in Asia) where quarry excavators use AI to learn the landscape and adapt their practices as it changes, without significant human oversight. But generally, the EU’s AI legislation appears to be about future proofing, so that it is ready for when these products come onto the market as technology develops.

Response provided by the Policy Lead for Machinery and Outdoor Noise - Office for Product Safety & Standards, Department for Business, Innovation, Science & Trade.