

**Regulation (EU) 2026/2108 establishing the Union Customs Code and
the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU)
No 952/2013**

Consultation Response – An Individual - ANON-3E4Q-3J4F-M

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Impact of EU Act

1. Does it appear likely that the EU act would have a significant negative impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist?

Yes

Tell us why :

The customs border in the Irish Sea has already had a damaging and lasting effect on everyday life in Northern Ireland. In my own experience, and that of people in my community, the impact ranges from routine inconvenience to real threats to the completion of work and to jobs. Equipment and products that should move freely within our own country are now delayed, restricted or refused, which adds cost and uncertainty to ordinary activity.

There is also a human cost. It is isolating to be treated as a foreigner in your own country.

It is impossible to justify a customs border between two parts of the same state. It raises the question of whose interests are being prioritised: the economy of our own country, or the rules of a foreign parliament. These effects are not temporary. They are built into the arrangement and will persist for as long as it does.

Any opportunity to restore frictionless trade and travel with the rest of the UK should be taken without hesitation.

2. Does it appear likely that NOT APPLYING the EU act would have a significant negative impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist?

No

Tell us why:

Northern Ireland's principal market is the rest of the UK. As a small part of an economy approaching 70 million people, we would gain far more from buying finished goods and components from our home market without an international customs border than we would lose by managing a border with the Republic of Ireland and the wider EU.

The “dual market” argument does not change this. Though presented as a major advantage, it has been widely reported that neither Invest NI nor the Department for the Economy can point to a single inward investment project that came here to access it. That is not surprising. With a customs border in place, there is no real dual market access.

Northern Ireland has to decide which market it belongs to. The experience of the Irish Sea border since 2021 shows we cannot have it both ways.

Ultimately, the cost of being cut off by a customs border from the economy we have been part of for over 200 years is far greater than the cost of managing a border with the Republic of Ireland.

3. Are there any other matters regarding the EU act that you wish to draw to the Committee's attention? Please note, any information provided should be of an evidential nature rather than a commentary.

Yes

Tell us why :

I am raising three examples from my own household and community, all of which arose from goods being unavailable or undeliverable between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Our family is raising [REDACTED] a black Labrador and golden retriever cross, as a Guide Dogs puppy in training, voluntarily for Guide Dogs UK. Medication for him cannot be sent to us from Great Britain, including from Guide Dogs UK headquarters. We have been unable to obtain it through the usual route, and we do not know what the resolution is. A dog in training for a role that supports a person with sight loss should not face avoidable barriers to routine veterinary care because of where in the UK the family caring for him lives.

My wife crochets and makes items for fundraising projects. She has been unable to buy wool from businesses in Great Britain. These are ordinary retail suppliers selling a basic craft material, and the restriction has directly limited the charitable work she is able to do.

My daughter-in-law has been unable to order from many small businesses in Great Britain that sell through Etsy. Many of these sellers have stopped shipping to Northern Ireland, which cuts local customers off from a large part of the small-business market in our own country.

In each case, the supplier is in the same state as the customer, and the barrier is the added customs and regulatory requirements on goods moving from Great Britain to

Northern Ireland, and importantly, these examples are not at all unusual in my community.