

**Regulation (EU) 2026/405 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2026 on detergents and surfactants, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 648/2004**

**Consultation Response - Federation of Small Businesses**

**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?**

Unsure

**Tell us why :**

The Windsor Framework, whilst smoothing some of the frictions created by the Northern Ireland Protocol, has created trade disruption across the UK internal market. These disruptions encompass a range of business-critical issues, including delays in production, stock shortages, and lost sales opportunities. This can often derive from the “unknown unknowns” of the Framework; like that of the potential unintended consequences that could come from implementing the EU’s regulation on detergents and surfactants.

The data shows that businesses in NI are unlikely to be directly overly impacted, given the very small amount of manufacturers to which this regulation would apply. However, there is an absence of data which indicates how the UK internal market would be affected.

If this regulation is applied to NI, businesses in GB putting their relevant products on the NI market would have to be compliant. The scale of this is unknown. FSB urges the committee to retrieve this data before committing to a decision, to prevent unknown and unintended consequences. Increased compliance can be a burden to SMEs and creating a dual regulatory landscape could deepen friction and prevent those in GB from placing their products on the NI market due to complexity.

**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:**

N/A

**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.**

No

**Tell us why :**

N/A