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Philip McGuigan
Chairperson, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee
Room 382, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

22 January 2025

Dear Philip,

Regulation (EU) 2024/3115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 as regards multiannual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high-risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high-risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates and the use of plant passports, and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and surveys of pests and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as regards certain notifications of non-compliance

I write further to your letter dated 10 January 2025.

Regarding the above Regulation, we refer Members of the Committee to the Explanatory Memorandum which was provided to them, setting out the Government's view. We note that as set out in the EM, the majority of changes made by the Regulation will affect only those wishing to move plants from Great Britain to the European Union. Businesses which wish to move plants only to Northern Ireland are able to make use of the Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) at present.

Regarding the position of England, Scotland and Wales, we believe the impacts of the Regulation will be felt equally - with traders from all three nations being able to benefit from improved transparency.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee.

PAUL FLYNN

DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WINDSOR FRAMEWORK TASKFORCE



Mr Philip McGuigan MLA, Chairperson
Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny
Committee (DSC)

REF: DSC 31/24

10 January 2025

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Issued via email to: wtf-sg@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Nick, a chara,

At its meeting on 9 January 2025, the Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) considered [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3115 regarding plant health controls and reporting obligations](#). This act was notified to the DSC on 2 January 2025.

The DSC decided to hold an inquiry into the replacement EU act, pursuant to paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 6B to the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Under paragraph 9(2)(a), the DSC must seek substantive discussion and engagement with the British Government. Therefore, the Committee is requesting your assessment of:

- Whether it appears likely that the application of the replacement EU act would have a significant impact specific to everyday life of communities here in a way that is liable to persist; and
- Whether it appears likely that not applying the replacement EU act would have a significant impact specific to everyday life of communities here in a way that is liable to persist.

In considering the potential for divergence, the Committee also requests details of the position in England, Scotland and Wales.

The DSC has considered the Explanatory Memorandum on Regulation (EU) 2024/3115, received from the British Government shortly before its meeting on 9 January. The DSC welcomes any further information the British Government can provide on the matters above.

I would appreciate a response by **Monday 20 January 2025 at 11.00am**.

Le meas,

Philip McGuigan, MLA
Chairperson, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee