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Regulation (EU) 2026/1703 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 as regards the prohibition on the export of mixed municipal waste destined for recovery

Dear Marie,

Regulation (EU) 2026/1703 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 as regards the prohibition on the export of mixed municipal waste destined for recovery, was published on 10 July.

In accordance with Article 13(3) of the Windsor Framework, the Regulation will apply to the UK in respect of NI, subject to the democratic scrutiny mechanisms set out in Article 13(3a) of the Windsor Framework and Schedule 6B of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Due to the targeted and technical nature of the amendment to Regulation (EU) 2024/1157, the UK Government has not prepared an Explanatory Memorandum in this instance, but is instead providing you with an assessment which is set out below.

Northern Ireland currently exports some mixed municipal waste as refuse-derived fuel (RDF) to facilities in the EU. As a result of this amendment, NI operators will also be able to send this waste to authorised recovery facilities in Switzerland, subject to prior informed consent from both jurisdictions. This provides NI exporters with greater flexibility in where they can send this waste, although I recognise that because Switzerland is not traditionally a significant destination for NI export for RDF, the practical impact of this flexibility is likely to be limited.

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

Yours sincerely,

PAUL FLYNN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WINDSOR FRAMEWORK TASKFORCE