



Department for the

Economy

An Roinn

Geilleagair

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Our ref: CQ DfE 188/25

Your Ref: EC2025:057

Date: 13 02 2025

Dear Peter

Product Regulation Metrology Bill consultation

Further to your letter dated 31 January 2025, requesting further information regarding the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill (the 'Bill'). Please see response below which has been cleared by Minister Archibald. This information is fully disclosable under Freedom of Information.

Department for the Economy (DfE) officials contacted the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) regarding the Committee for the Economy (the 'Committee') query.

In response, DBT provided a list of engagement undertaken as part of the development of the Bill, including:

- UK Government 2003 Product Safety Review consultation (the UK Government published a response to the PSR consultation - [Government response to the Product Safety Review and next steps - GOV.UK](#));
- 2003 UK Conformity Assessment roundtables;

- The Business Reference Panel, a quarterly conference attended by over 100 trade associations and businesses, who either trade in or represent business in NI;
- Industry Stakeholder Group;
- Consumer Reference Panel;
- Individual engagement with relevant consumers and business organisations including; Make UK, Federation of Small Businesses NI, British Retail Consortium, British Chambers of Commerce, Consumer Council NI, and NI District Councils;
- Engagement with NI Local Authorities via weekly Heads of Service emails, quarterly live briefings and events hosted by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers;
- Regular engagement with the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels;
- Regular engagement with Devolved Governments.

DBT also outlined the Bill's anticipated legislative timeline.

Stage	Potential date	Comment
Bidding process		
Kings Speech	17 July 2024	Product Regulation and Metrology Bill confirmed for 1 st session
House of Lords		
Introduction	4 September 2024	Completed
Second Reading	8 October 2024	Completed
Committee Stage	20 November – 11 December 2024	Completed
Report Stage	26 February 2025	Confirmed
Third Reading	5 March 2025	Confirmed
House of Commons		
Introduction	6 March 2025	Day after Third Reading in the Lords
Second Reading	W/C 17 March 2025	Two weekends after First Reading

Committee Stage	W/C 24 March 2025 or W/C 31 March 2025	One week after Second Reading if it was on a Monday or a Tuesday. Ten days if it was on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.
Report Stage and Third Reading	7 April 2025 (day before recess) or W/C 21 April 2025	As early as a week after Committee Recess 8-21 April so 21 unavailable

DBT have requested that the indicative timeline for the Bill is not made public given they are not confirmed.

The written and oral evidence previously provided by DfE officials to the Committee on 29 January 2025 provides detail on the current position of the Bill. No further background policy information is available at this time.

Yours sincerely

Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Department for the Economy
abu@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: **EC2025:057**

31 January 2025

Dear Gary,

Product Regulation and Metrology Bill – Consultation

Please accept the Committee's thanks for the oral and written evidence provided by the Department at the meeting of 29 January 2025 on the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill.

The Committee noted that the Bill is complex and potentially includes measures which might impact on devolved matters and those covered by the Windsor Framework and may lead to the application of non-concurrent powers by Westminster.

The Committee also noted that only limited information had been provided in respect of the implementation and the consequences of the Bill, and that consequently Members could not provide a firm indication of their views.

In order to inform its understanding, the Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking: sight of the relevant consultation papers particularly in respect of consumer and business groups in NI; and clarity on the timeframes for the legislation.

A written response on or before 14 February 2025 would be greatly appreciated. The Committee would also greatly appreciate any related background policy information that you can provide.

If you require further information or clarification in respect of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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