



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

15 January 2026

Meeting Location: Room 30

Present:

Ciara Ferguson MLA (Chairperson)

David Brooks MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Cathal Boylan MLA

Declan Kearney MLA

Peter Martin MLA

Eóin Tennyson MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Steve Aiken MLA

Jonathan Buckley MLA

Kate Nicholl MLA

Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee

Apologies: None.

In Attendance:

Marie Austin, Clerk

Chris Dickison, Senior Assistant Clerk

Jessica Jacques, Senior Assistant Clerk

Sean McCann, Assistant Clerk

Damien Brown, Clerical Officer

Shelley Garner, Clerical Officer

In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Oliver Bellew, Assistant Clerk

Carla Campbell, Clerical Supervisor

Lisa Chestnutt, Clerical Supervisor

The meeting commenced at 10.01am in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Interests

Peter Martin MLA joined the meeting at 10.02am.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2026.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC – Departmental Oral Evidence

As part of its Inquiry, the Committee considered the following replacement EU act:

Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC.

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.04am:

Lynsey Moore	Director of Europe Strategy and International Relations
Stephen Hamilton-Shields	Assistant Director, Windsor Framework and Democratic Scrutiny Branch

The Deputy Chairperson joined the meeting at 10.08am.

The officials gave oral evidence on matters relating to the provision of departmental assessments of impact on EU acts, including on Regulation (EU) 2025/2509.

A question and answer session followed.

During the evidence session, officials agreed to provide information on the four pieces of EU legislation for which there is no departmental policy interest / which are not considered to be within the remit of any Executive department. Officials also agreed to seek information on the number of UK-only toy suppliers/manufacturers which supply Northern Ireland.

The evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The officials left the meeting at 10.18am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Office to ask which public body will carry out regional engagement, stakeholder engagement, and a regulatory impact assessment on the replacement EU act.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister to raise the issues around non-provision of assessments of impact to the Committee on reserved matters which are not considered to be within the remit of any Executive department, and to ask the Executive Office to explore possible solutions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Office to state that it is strongly of the view that the work undertaken by Executive departments, including the Executive Office, to enable the Committee to properly carry out its statutory functions, is also a 'direct cost' of the Windsor Framework and should be funded accordingly.

6. Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC – Office for Public Safety and Standards Oral Evidence

As part of its Inquiry, the Committee continued its consideration of Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC.

The Committee had formally requested that officials from the Office for Public Safety and Standards (OPSS) attend the meeting to give oral evidence on Regulation (EU) 2025/2509. OPSS officials did not attend the meeting.

The Committee noted that a Citizen Space survey had launched, with a closing date of 18 January 2026 and that the survey responses, the draft report, and the final report would be considered at the meeting on 22 January 2026.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Cabinet Office to express its disappointment that OPSS officials did not attend the meeting to provide oral evidence on the replacement EU act, and to ask the Ministers to encourage UK departments and agencies to engage with the Committee when needed, noting that on establishment of the Committee, there was an assurance that the UK Government would “endeavour to ensure the Assembly has timely access to all the necessary information and analysis it needs to carry out its work”.

7. COM/2025/386 – Proposal for a Regulation on the European Chemicals Agency and amending Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021 – Updated Legal Advice

The Committee noted updated legal advice on COM/2025/386 Proposal for a Regulation on the European Chemicals Agency.

8. Committee Work Planning

The Committee noted an update on all the proposed EU acts which it is monitoring and gathering evidence on.

9. Correspondence

9.1 The Committee considered correspondence from the EU Affairs Office regarding the European Committee of the Regions - UK Contact Group.

Jonathan Buckley declared an interest as the Chairperson of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee (AERC).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the AERC for consideration as part of its Review of the arrangements for Assembly Members' participation in interparliamentary and international bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) that it had referred the matter to the AERC.

9.2 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding veterinary medicines supply to Northern Ireland.

9.3 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2023/451 Proposal for a Regulation on circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles.

9.4 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2025/137 Proposal for a Regulation as regards certain market rules and sectoral support measures in the wine sector and for aromatised wine products.

9.5 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2025/503 Proposal for a Directive and COM/2025/504 Proposal for a Regulation as regards digitalisation and common specifications.

9.6 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2025/386 Proposal for a Regulation on the European Chemicals Agency.

9.7 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2023/258 Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority.

9.8 The Committee noted an update from RalSe on COM/2025/531 Proposal for a Regulation as regards simplification of certain requirements and procedures for chemical products.

10. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted a written summary of the meeting between the Chairperson, deputy Chairperson and the Minister for the Economy on 8 January 2026, regarding the Department's review of its internal procedures and working relationships with the UK Government.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22 January 2026 at 10.00am in Room 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.45am.

Ciara Ferguson MLA

Chairperson, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee