



Agricultural Industries Confederation
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By email to: [REDACTED]

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New Regulation (EU) 2026/1739 on Strengthening the position of farmers in the food supply chain

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with respect to the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC) recent submission to the Northern Ireland Assembly Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee (DSC) consultation on the above Regulation. The DSC considered your submission at its meeting on 20 August 2026, agreed to forward a copy to DAERA, and requested that the Department respond directly to you.

In its submission (under answer 3), AIC raised a question in respect of whether the Regulation's "farmer-contract and supply-chain bargain measures" will be introduced in Northern Ireland.

I can confirm that the provisions of the Regulation that apply in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework are limited to amendments to Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 (the "CMO Regulation") introducing new marketing standards rules. The latter include rules on the voluntary use of the marketing terms "fair", "equitable and "short supply chain" and the use of

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“meat” and meat related terms in product descriptions. The Regulation also provides powers for the EU Commission to introduce new rules to require “the place of farming and/or origin” for poultry meat or spreadable fats but does not itself introduce an immediate new labelling obligation.

The remaining provisions, including amendments to the CMO Regulation with regard to contractual relations, such as review clauses, mandatory written contracts, and price calculation do not apply in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework, nor do the provisions on farming associations, producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and interbranch organisations.

Generally speaking, the rules on contractual relations set out in the amended Articles 148 and 168 of the CMO Regulation would apply to deliveries of milk and milk products and specified agricultural products (listed in Annex 1(2) of that Regulation) to Ireland or any other EU member state from 19 August 2028.

However, DAERA’s final interpretation is subject to any further rules specified by the EU in implementing acts and any flexibilities exercised by the Irish authorities or any other individual EU member state.

I trust this response clarifies the position.

I am copying this letter to the Clerks of the DSC.

Yours faithfully,



Elaine McCrory

Head of Supply Chain Transition Branch