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Marie Austin
Committee Clerk, Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee
Room 382, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

09 November 2026

Dear Marie,

Regulation (EU) 2026/2382 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2026 amending Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EC) No 1272/2008, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) 2019/1021 and (EU) 2021/697 as regards defence readiness and facilitating defence investments and conditions for defence industry

The final text agreed by the European Parliament and the Council contains no substantive changes to the Commission's original proposal. The changes made during negotiations are minor and clarificatory and do not alter the overall purpose, scope or practical effect of the proposal as assessed by the Government in the Explanatory Memorandum submitted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 19 January 2026.

The Government's original assessment therefore remains valid. In particular, the amendments to the EU REACH, CLP, Biocidal Products and Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations will apply in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework, but are not expected to have practical implications for the operation of UK defence exemptions because the relevant exemptions are already provided for in UK law and UK-wide exemption decisions can continue to apply in Northern Ireland.

The Government's assessment also remains that the Regulation has no direct financial implications for the UK public finances. The United Kingdom is not a contributor to, or beneficiary of, the European Defence Fund.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee - we ask that this letter is shared with them.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WINDSOR FRAMEWORK TASKFORCE