



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Edward Argar MP
Minister of State for Health

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith
Senior Deputy Speaker
Chair of the Liaison Committee
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

30th July 2020

Dear Lord McFall,

**RE: NUTRITION LABELLING, COMPOSITION AND STANDARDS COMMON
FRAMEWORK**

I would like to thank you for your letter of 14 July, concerning the Nutrition Related Labelling Composition, and Standards (NLCS) Common Framework. I am delighted to see that the committee has taken an interest in the detail of our framework proposals, and I look forward to the establishment of scrutiny mechanisms for Lords Committees.

Having carefully considered the questions posed in your letter, the NLCS framework and accompanying concordat contains much of the information you seek. I expect that responses to your queries will become clear once the common framework and concordat have been supplied to the Liaison Committee in their entirety following provisional approval by the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) (EN).

Furthermore, to ensure clarity, I have requested that my officials endeavour to provide written responses to your questions alongside the framework and concordat once they are submitted for scrutiny.

I recently met with Chloe Smith, Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution, and learned that the NLCS framework is one of the first frameworks on which committee engagement has begun, so I thank you for your assistance in progressing the framework smoothly into the committee liaison stage. We are working closely with Minister Smith and Cabinet Office colleagues to follow a UKG wide process to enable all frameworks to advance through the delivery process consistently.

While the NLCS framework has been cleared by UK Government, the devolved administrations also need to provide clearance, after which it can progress to JMC(EN). We anticipate the NLCS framework will receive provisional approval from JMC(EN) Ministers in the Autumn. My officials will liaise with parliamentary colleagues to share details once the dates for this are confirmed. Once provisionally approved, the NLCS framework and concordat will be shared with committees to enable parliamentary scrutiny to begin.

In the meantime, I would like to draw your attention to the current UK-wide consultation on the Nutrition (Amendment etc) EU Exit Regulations 2020, which is relevant to the framework and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nutrition-labelling-composition-and-standards-nlcs-legislation-from-1-january-2021>.

I hope this reply is helpful, and I look forward to working with you and the Liaison Committee as you commence your scrutiny of our common frameworks approach in the near future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Argar', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

EDWARD ARGAR MP