



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Affairs Sub-Committee on the Protocol
on Ireland/Northern Ireland

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 5864
Fax: 020 7219 6715
hlprotocol@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay
Lord in Waiting and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Minister for Arts)
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

1 July 2022

Dear Minister,

PRODUCT SECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

In its December 2020 *Review of investigative and scrutiny Committees*, which first proposed the establishment of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, the Liaison Committee identified the six core tasks of the Protocol Committee, one of which was **“Scrutiny of the implications of relevant domestic UK legislation and policy for Northern Ireland”**. In our *Introductory report* of July 2021, we set out our intention to consider the implications of relevant domestic legislation for Northern Ireland in this context.

We considered the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill at our meeting on 29 June 2022, in particular the provisions in Part I relating to new security standards for consumer connectable products. We note that these provisions extend and apply to the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland and that the Explanatory Notes state that the Bill is compatible with the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

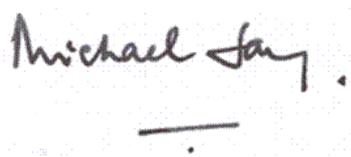
We invite you to set out in further detail how you envisage the Bill’s requirements interacting with the Protocol in practice. Under the Bill, would consumer connectable products supplied in Northern Ireland have to comply with both (1) the relevant EU product standards and safety legislation applicable under Article 2 of the Protocol and (2) new UK security requirements specified under the Bill? If so, what practical measures would be taken to ensure that consumer connectable products arriving in Northern Ireland from the EU complied with the additional UK security requirements imposed under the Bill?

We also invite clarification on how the interaction of the Bill’s provisions and the Protocol would be affected by the provisions of the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill currently before the House of Commons. That Bill proposes disapplying the relevant provisions of Article 5.4 of, and Annex 2 to, the Protocol to the extent they would be incompatible with the dual regulatory regime set out in clause 7 of that Bill. How would the proposed dual regulatory regime apply to consumer connectable products? Could they be placed on the market in Northern Ireland by complying with EU law requirements only, or would they be required always to comply with UK security requirements imposed by the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill?

We would be grateful for a response to this letter by 15 July 2022.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee, George Wilson, Clerk of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee, Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Les Saunders, EU Document Scrutiny Manager, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office; Laurie Scott, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator, DCMS; and the Secretariat of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Jay". Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Lord Jay of Ewelme
Chair of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland Sub-Committee