

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

12 October 2022

Scott Mann MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

8042/22: Proposal for a Regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 (42050)

We considered your predecessor's letter of 27 July on the above document at our meeting of 12 October 2022.

We accept the Government's contention that it is not possible at the moment to identify how divergent the rules may turn out to be, although neither should the Government adopt a 'wait and see' approach. While recognising the regulatory autonomy of the GB and EU systems, it does make sense to at least minimise the impact of any divergence. That requires careful monitoring while the respective plans are being drafted rather than once they are finalised.

A potentially significant area of divergence is the approach to phasing-down the use of F-gases in heat pumps. We are aware that there is resistance among industry representatives to the Commission's proposed phase-down but that there are cheaper and more efficient alternative refrigerants available.

We ask that you update us on developments in this area within six months, including on your approach to the use of F-gases in heat pumps.

We are copying this letter to Philip Dunne MP, Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and Martyn Atkins, Clerk of the Committee; Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Stephen Habberley, Clerk of the Committee; the Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the European Affairs Committee in the House of Lords and Nick Boorer, Clerk of the Committee; your Departmental EU Scrutiny team; and Les Saunders in the FCDO.

CHAIR