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Baroness Andrews  
House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee  
House of Lords  
LONDON  
SW1A 0PW

Our ref: SCORR 226/2022

9 November 2022

Via email: [hlcommonframeworks@parliament.uk](mailto:hlcommonframeworks@parliament.uk)

Dear Baroness Andrews

Thank you for your letter of 2 November enclosing a copy of the Committee's letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster following consideration of the UK Government's response to your report "Common Frameworks: An unfulfilled opportunity".

Officials within the Executive Office have played an integral role in the UKG/DA Common Frameworks Project having co-authored the JMC(EN) Principles for development of Common Frameworks referred to in the report. Officials also continue to engage with officials in the Cabinet Office, Scottish Government and Welsh Government on the ongoing development and implementation of Common Frameworks in light of the recommendations in your report.

Your letter highlights the concerns of the Committee in relation to the Retained EU Law (Revocation & Reform) Bill. Officials within the Executive Office and wider Northern Ireland Civil Service have been engaged with the UK Government throughout the development of the Bill. In that regard we have continued to make representations around the scope of the Bill and in particular the sunset clauses, as to how these will present a significant legislative burden for both the NI Civil Service and NI Assembly.

Throughout this engagement, TEO officials along with officials from the Scottish and Welsh governments, have requested that the UKG provide its analysis of the devolution intersect of the Retained EU Law identified on its published Dashboard. An initial and non-definitive analysis was shared on “an internal use only” basis, on the 17 October.

Following the publication of the Bill, NI departments undertook a full analysis of its potential impacts and implications for Northern Ireland which, in the absence of a functioning Assembly and Executive, I forwarded to the BEIS Secretary of State on the 3 November, identifying the potential for an untenable legislative burden along with the resulting need for a diversion of resources that may be required, to ensure a functioning statute book.

TEO officials will continue to engage with the both the Common Frameworks Project Board, and with the Bill team during the progression of the REUL Bill through Parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JAYNE BRADY**  
**Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service**