



**The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP**  
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Simon Hoare MP  
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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Our Ref: PM/NMP2809

28th March 2023

Dear Simon,

**Parliamentary scrutiny of Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland**

Further to my letter of 5 December regarding scrutiny of Article 2 of the Northern Ireland Protocol and UK Government legislation, I would like to confirm that guidance has been circulated to all departments on this matter. In addition, the Explanatory Memorandum guidance for statutory instruments has been updated and circulated to departments to ensure the legislative context section includes whether the instrument is required to ensure compliance with Article 2 of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

I would also like to confirm that the next update of the Guide to Making Legislation, which I expect to be published later this year, will include the importance of the Explanatory Notes for primary legislation referencing that Article 2 has been considered. Once the updated Guide has been published, it will also be circulated to departments.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the Chairs of the Women and Equalities Select Committee, Lords Sub-Committee on the Protocol in Northern/Northern Ireland, and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.