



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Clive Betts MP
Chair, HCLG Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0303 444 3430
Email: christopher.pincher@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

24th November 2020

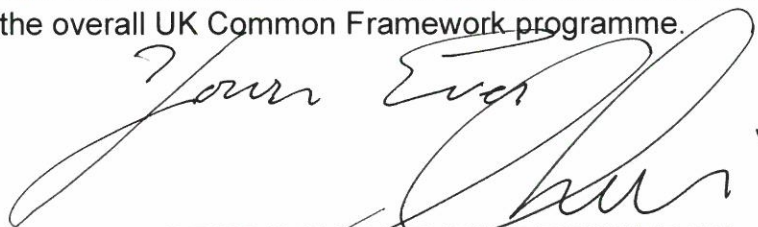
Dear Clive,

I am pleased to share the provisionally confirmed Hazardous Substances (Planning) common framework with you.

My officials have been working together with their counterparts in Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Irish Executive to develop this framework, which is provisional until formally approved the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) (JMC(EN)). JMC(EN) approval will follow Select Committee scrutiny. I am sharing this framework for your committee to review, to assist with committee preparations for parliamentary scrutiny of the provisional framework. Should you wish to scrutinise this, my officials stand ready to make the necessary preparations. The provisional framework has been laid in the United Kingdom Parliament and is available at this weblink: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hazardous-substances-provisional-planning-framework>

Please find attached a cover sheet, outlining some of the practical details to enable parliamentary scrutiny of the provisional framework. My counterparts across the devolved administrations are taking similar steps to engage with their respective parliaments.

I am copying this letter, and all attachments to William Wragg MP, Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee due to the committee's interest in the overall UK Common Framework programme.

Yours Ever


RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP

Sharing UK Common Framework summary with Parliamentary Committees

1. Framework ownership

- Hazardous Substances (Planning)
- Christopher Pincher (Housing Minister)
- Planning Infrastructure, MHCLG.
- Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee and House of Lords Liaison Committee

2. Points for the Parliamentary Committees to note

a. Procedural

- JMC(EN) agreement of provisional framework received 3rd September 2020.
- The provisional framework will be laid in parliament on the 23rd November to enable scrutiny to begin

b. Content

- The purpose of the framework is to establish a common approach to land-use planning in relation to hazardous substances with the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The proposed approach is for a light touch framework, that does not bind the hands of ministers but rather sets out and formalises positive ways of working to ensure continued co-operation between administrations.
- No contentious issues to note associated with this Common Framework

3. Questions and considerations for committees, to be confirmed prior to scrutiny

- Please review the attached draft framework, and confirm if your committee wishes to conduct scrutiny of this framework.
- If conducting scrutiny, please confirm the committee is content to conduct scrutiny within the 21 sitting days, as previously advised by the Minister for Constitution and Devolution, in her letter to your committee chair on 1st June. If not, please explain why, and set out your proposed timeline. N.B. Committees may be able to spend longer than the advised 21 sitting days on scrutiny, but this will depend on the overall framework delivery timeline. If you do not think it will be possible to conduct scrutiny within the 21 sitting days, please liaise with the lead policy team at the earliest opportunity to come to an agreement.
- Given the possible scrutiny start date shown above, please confirm when the policy team can expect to receive committee recommendations.
- Do you expect other committees to take an interest? If so, which? The policy team is sharing the draft framework, and later the JMC(EN) approved provisional framework, with the committees listed above. Other committees will have access to the provisional framework once it is laid in Parliament, unless you recommend the policy team share with another committee.

To note:

The draft Hazardous Substances (Planning) common framework is in the public domain which is why it is being shared in place of a summary (as will likely be provided for other common frameworks). The draft provided is not the version that will be scrutinised however. The version which has been approved by the JMC(EN) has undergone minor amendments following Write Round and will be provided following being laid in parliament. It will be provided alongside a covering letter from the Minister, Christopher Pincher, to formally start the parliamentary scrutiny process.

The purpose of sharing the draft with committees is to assist committees with their preparations for conducting scrutiny should they wish to do so. This draft will be shared by the respective policy departments in each of the four nations with legislatures in the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru and Northern Ireland Assembly. Each legislature will have the opportunity to scrutinise their respective governments separately. If any administration wishes to take forward the committee recommendations, these will be agreed jointly by all four administrations.