



Sir Robert Buckland
Barrister
Foundry Chambers
Quality House,
5–9 Quality Court,
London, WC2A 1HP

10 September 2025

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your email of the 3rd September and for the copy of your Opinion.

I am responding as Chair of the Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee of the House of Lords.

In your email you did not identify your client, and it is not clear from your Opinion. It might be helpful to remind you that, as like all Lords Committees ours is wary of reacting, or being seen to react to anything that later could be interpreted as lobbying. This is a concern even if the approach emanates from highly respected figures such as yourself, representatives of industry and current or former Parliamentarians. Also, it is not part of our Committee's role or terms of reference to "ensure the stability of the UK's internal market". I apologise if all that sounds a little pompous, but as part of my duty to all the members I felt I should set out those rules of engagement.

That said, happily and as often happens, the Committee is well aware of the concerns you express related to the Windsor Framework, and indeed ahead of the game as it were. On the 24th April 2025 we wrote (link below) to the relevant Minister about the important points you raise concerning the Tobacco and Vapes Bill and the Windsor Framework, in the context of the Committee's responsibility to scrutinise "EU legislation within the scope of the Protocol/Windsor Framework and relevant domestic UK legislation and policy".

You will see that the letter asked the Government to reply "before the Report stage of the Bill" which has not, as yet, happened. It is currently in Committee stage in the Lords.

The Committee will chase the Government for a response to its letter, as we are yet to receive one.

Once we have the response I will update you.

Kind regards,

Yours ever,



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Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC,

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