



Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Minister for Animal Welfare and Biosecurity
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

18 September 2025

Dear Minister,

THE MARKING OF RETAIL GOODS REGULATIONS 2025

Thank you for your letter, dated 5 June 2025, on the Marking of Retail Goods Regulations 2025. The House of Lords Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee considered this letter at its meeting on 17 September.

We note your statement that any “decision to activate this power by the Secretary of State would be based on data gathered through robust stakeholder engagement and monitoring the market” and that “activation of the SI will be considered as a last resort, where other engagement methods have failed and supply is at risk”.

We further note that the Government’s Impact Assessment states that businesses will face “between £0 and £53.8m in total one-off labelling costs, with package redesign and the costs associated with setting up new product lines being the most substantial cost categories” and “between £0 and £279.4m in total ongoing labelling costs, with product line changes and transportation being the most substantial cost categories.”

We are concerned that these costs will be passed on to the consumer. What is the Government’s underlying assessment of the risks of product de-listing to the Northern Ireland market, in terms of the number and value of retail goods?. What is the likelihood, therefore, that the Government will use the powers contained in the regulations?

We would be grateful for a response which we can consider when the House returns following the conference recess.

I am copying this letter to Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Chair of the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Robbie Butler MLA, Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Yours sincerely,



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Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC,

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