



HOUSE OF LORDS

Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee

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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

17 December 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

**STRENGTHENING NI'S VOICE' INQUIRY AND THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2025, relating to the Government's response to the Independent Review of the Windsor Framework. The Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee considered this letter at its meeting on 17 December 2025.

We are grateful for your letter and for the acknowledgement of the Committee's own report in the Government's response to Lord Murphy's Independent Review.

We look forward to the Government's discrete response to the Committee's report, *Northern Ireland after Brexit: Strengthening Northern Ireland's voice in the context of the Windsor Framework*, which was due on 15 December.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and His Majesty's Paymaster General, Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Chair of the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee; and Ciara Ferguson MLA, Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC,  
Chair, Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee