

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**

Lord Carlile of Berriew
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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Dear Lord Carlile

MARKING OF RETAIL GOODS REGULATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 15th January 2026, regarding the Marking of Retail Goods Regulations 2025. I note the Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee's recent consideration of this and relevant correspondence with Baroness Hayman of Ullock on the matter.

As noted by Baroness Hayman in her previous letter of 5th January 2026, the territorial extent of these Regulations does not include Northern Ireland and this matter is therefore outside of my Department's responsibility. Despite this, I am aware of the importance of these Regulations in safeguarding the supply of retail goods to Northern Ireland, with labelling requirements for the movement of retail goods being a regular topic of discussion during my meetings with Baroness Hayman.

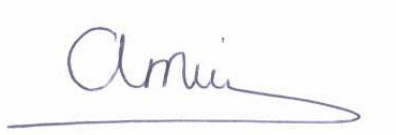
These Regulations provide the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with the power to introduce 'not for EU' labelling for certain retail goods in GB. This can be introduced if there is evidence that the supply of a retail good is adversely affected by relevant business operators withdrawing from the NI market due to the additional labelling requirements of the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

Whilst I support these regulations in principle, my real desire is to see a comprehensive SPS agreement reached with the EU without delay to remove such trade friction between GB and NI. Until such time as an SPS agreement has been reached with the EU, I am committed to the full and faithful implementation of the Windsor Framework.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs