



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

11 February 2026

Dear Minister,

Windsor Framework Independent Monitoring Panel: Report on the first reporting period for the UK Internal Market Guarantee (1 January - 30 June 2025)

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2026 in relation to the Windsor Framework Independent Monitoring Panel: Report on the first reporting period for the UK Internal Market Guarantee (1 January - 30 June 2025). The House of Lords Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 11 February 2026.

We note your statement that "questions about the methodology of the Panel's report...are rightfully questions for the Panel itself, which is independent of Government" but nevertheless note your explanation that "the Guarantee must be measured across freight movements from GB to NI, which may take place by air or sea, and cover a broad variety of goods," and that therefore "using an alternative unit of measurement such as vehicular movements or declarations would seem to offer a less reliable means of measurement and comparison across monitoring periods."

We further note, in response to the Committee's question on the new simplified processes, that the "panel was reviewing data from January to June 2025" and that it was "therefore not possible for some traders in the earlier part of the first monitoring period to benefit from these facilitations", which were introduced on 1 May 2025.

In its letter of 21 November 2025, the Committee asked a number of additional questions which were not addressed in your reply. In this context, we re-iterate the following questions:

- i. Can you tell us what proportion of overall freight movements were within the Internal Market System?
- ii. What statistical data did the Government provide to the Panel to assist it in its deliberations?
- iii. Will the Government share this data with the Committee and any headline statistics on which the IMP Report was based?

We would be grateful for a response before the end of February.



HOUSE OF LORDS

Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee

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I am copying this letter to 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