



The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

18 March 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

US administration imposition of global reciprocal tariffs: Implications for the Windsor Framework and Northern Ireland

Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2025 on the above issue, which the Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee considered at its meeting on 25 June 2025, and responded to in a letter dated 26 June 2025.

In light of the recent US Supreme Court judgment, and the Trump Administration's announcement of the implementation of a global tariff of 15 per cent on US goods, the Committee is once more concerned by the potential effect of global reciprocal tariffs on Northern Ireland and on the operation of the Windsor Framework.

We would like to remind you of the request made in our previous letter that it would be grateful for "further updates [...] in relation to any subsequent developments in US, UK and EU tariff relationships."

As such, we would appreciate if you could provide us with more detail on the impact of the announcement of a global tariff of 15 per cent on the Economic Prosperity Deal agreed between the UK and US last May and its implications for Northern Ireland.

In particular, we would be grateful if you could set out the Government's updated assessment of the impact on Northern Ireland of these latest developments, in the context of Northern Ireland's position as part of the UK Customs Territory but subject to EU customs rules for goods "at risk" of entering the EU single market.

We would be grateful for a response that the Committee can consider when the House returns following Easter recess.



HOUSE OF LORDS

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Yours sincerely,

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