



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Callanan
Minister for Climate Change and Corporate
Responsibility

**Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Baroness Andrews
Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee
House of Lords
London,
SW1A 0PW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

4 May 2020

Dear Baroness Andrews,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 April 2021 and for confirming your intention to scrutinise the provisional Frameworks for Late Payment, Specified Quantities and Packaged Goods and Company Law when published. We acknowledge the potential need for flexibility on the standard 21 sitting day period for scrutiny given the uncertainty on publication dates.

We are happy to clarify how BEIS and the Devolved Administrations worked together in these areas before frameworks were developed. Strong working relationships, and in some cases official level working groups, existed in these policy areas before the end of the transition period. The frameworks programme formalises these links and allows officials from the relevant administrations to meet and, for example, discuss policy development, and to sight senior officials and ministers when appropriate through more formal governance structures. Further details on each framework area are as follows:

Specified Quantities and Packaged Goods:

There is, and always has been, a good working relationship and regular informal official engagement between the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Northern Ireland Department for Economy (DfE) on policy, legal and technical aspects of metrology, of which this framework is part of. It is a non-legislative framework which formalises the working arrangements for collaboration and information sharing between BEIS and DfE within this policy area, building on existing practice. Policy Officials will continue their current working arrangement based on regular informal working level meetings and information sharing, as well as a more focused bi-annual meeting regarding this framework – a new level of formality which will help ensure the policy conversation between BEIS and DfE remains effective.

On Late Payments:

An official level working group did not exist before the end of the transition period. Due to the long-standing alignment between UK Government and the Devolved Administrations on late payment policies and legislation, it has been sufficient for engagement to be on an ad-hoc

basis at official level, rather than through a formal working group. With that in mind, the Late Payment Framework establishes more formal working practices, processes and governance structures to ensure late payments policy issues are properly discussed between the administrations.

On Company Law:

The Company Law framework reflects existing constructive working relationships between officials in the DfE and BEIS working on company law. Like the Specified Quantities and Packaged Goods Framework, it is a non-legislative framework that formalises the relationship between officials, including through a Working Group. Such a working group is only expected to be required should an escalation route to resolve any issues between the Departments on a policy approach emerge. This is not anticipated based on the continuation of regular, informal engagement between Departments.

Thank you for your continued scrutiny of BEIS Common Frameworks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Callinan".

Lord Callanan

Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Scully".

Paul Scully MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
Minister for London