



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Affairs Sub-Committee on the Protocol
on Ireland/Northern Ireland

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HE Adrian O'Neill
Ambassador
Embassy of Ireland
17 Grosvenor Place
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23 July 2021

Dear Ambassador,

One of the core tasks of the House of Lords Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is to undertake document-based scrutiny of new or amended EU legislation within the scope of the Protocol. We undertake such scrutiny on the basis of Explanatory Memoranda received from the UK Government on EU legislative proposals applying to Northern Ireland under the Protocol. The Committee typically writes to the relevant Government Minister setting out its views and asking questions of clarification. The Committee's exchange of correspondence is published online, and the latest volume is available [here](#).

I am writing to you in connection with Explanatory Memorandum EM 8537/21: Commission Regulation (EU) .../... Of XXX amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prohibition to feed non-ruminant farmed animals, other than fur animals, with protein derived from animals. This Regulation applies to Northern Ireland under the terms of the Protocol.

As you will know, concern has been expressed about this Regulation in the Northern Ireland Assembly, and in the UK, Northern Ireland and Irish media, in the context of the serious economic and societal impact of the recent BSE crisis. Media reports have stated that Ireland abstained in the vote in Council, but nevertheless the Regulation secured sufficient support to come into force in August.

In view of these concerns, the Committee has written a detailed letter to Lord Benyon, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), seeking clarity on the Regulation's impact on Northern Ireland.

The Committee has asked me to copy the letter to you, and to invite you to pass on any comments on the Irish Government's position on this proposal, including its scientific justification, its likely impact on the agri-food industry on the island of Ireland, in particular on the context of possible regulatory divergence with Great Britain in the event that England, Scotland and Wales do not adopt equivalent provisions.

Please find the letter to Minister Benyon attached, and we would welcome any comments that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Jay of Ewelme
Chair of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland Sub-Committee