

Anonymous – Written evidence (IWF0007)

26th April 2023

To whom it may concern.

We are a small business involved in selling packaging materials for use in agriculture, engineering and coal industries. We mainly purchase from Mainland GB and sell North and South of Ireland.

We submit this evidence because we do not think it is right that a business should have to disclose confidential trading documents with hauliers while moving goods from one part of the UK to another, incurring additional costs and increased haulage times.

We reply to the following questions:

1. Our overall assessment of the Windsor Framework is 100 times worse than the Protocol (as Lord Frost said it's the Protocol under a different name) as it is the full implementation of the Protocol without any grace periods. Unresolved issues are that goods are still not "unfettered access" as the PM always states, and most goods will have to come through the red lane as at time of purchase we don't know where they will end up. Also red lane and green lane goods can't be on same trailer so this adds to haulage costs and damage to the environment
2. Lord Trimble said the Protocol drove a coaches and horses through the Good Friday Agreement and thus the Windsor Framework too as it is no different in reality.
3. The WF doesn't protect Northern Ireland's place in the UK internal market as GB suppliers are reluctant to deal with NI customers due to added costs and additional paperwork. Due to these extra costs of bringing goods from GB we are then uncompetitive selling into the EU market.
4. There is much confusion about what is required, the UK are vague and from what the PM has said you'd think all goods can flow smoothly but the EU's version is vastly different stating a list of requirements even for green lane goods.
5. As NI is part of UK there should be no requirement for customs procedures between the two. Registering for the Trusted Trader Scheme is complicated and too much info is requested on trading operations with a foreign EU organisation. Red and green lanes don't solve problems for business like ourselves which bring most goods into stock, holding them for some time before knowing where they are sold too, so according to the EU all has to come in Red Lane adding to costs for even locally sold goods.
6. No, the WF does not go far enough in mitigating the issues
7. There seems to be confusion over what documents are required for parcels.
8. As NI is part of UK the EU should not have control of any Vat/Excise rates applied here.
9. We don't think that the WF goes far enough regarding medicines and all medicines should be available across the UK.
- 10.No, the proposals do not go far enough regarding Plants, seeds and trees. Trees have been discriminated against as only certain varieties are allowed which makes no sense. Seed potatoes cannot be purchased from mail order catalogue, they can only be purchased by a business for retailing to a customer. All GB mail order plant companies haven't supplied NI for the last 2+ years and as WF hasn't addressed the issues they are unlikely to start trading with the general public.
- 11.No comment
- 12.We should be able to take pets with us on holiday in GB without questions
- 13.No Comment

14. There should be no Regulatory divergence between GB/NI and this all gets very complicated to follow.
15. As NI remains part of UK there should be no requirement for EU rules.
16. The Stormont Brake just seems to be a lot of bluff.
17. There seems to be so much data required on goods movement that it's doubtful that IT systems would cope.
18. No comment
19. No comment
20. EU has stated that CJEU is still in charge
21. There would be concerns over privacy of all the information required and who can access it as all trading details have to be shared.