



Subject:	Consultation response: Toys Safety Regulations – Call for evidence
Date:	8 September 2026
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted? Yes ☐ No ☒	
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1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes ☒ No ☐	

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To ask Committee to approve the draft Council response to The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) call for evidence on potential changes to toy safety legislation which closes on 6th October 2026. The draft Council response highlights: 1. Potential benefits and costs to businesses and consumers if similar changes to the recently introduced EU regulation (due to apply in Northern Ireland from 1st August 2030) are implemented UK wide. 2. Potential benefits and costs of continuing recognition of EU toys requirements, including CE marking, and consistency in enforcement.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the attached draft response at Appendix 1, subject to any amendments arising from your discussion. However, as this is not a delegated matter, the committee's decision and any proposed amendments to the consultation response will be placed before the Council on 1 October for ratification. The consultation closes on the 6 October 2026.
3.0	Main Report
	Background to EU and UK Toy Safety Legislation
3.1	The Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 implemented the requirements of the EU Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC in the UK. The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 preserved these Regulations in the UK and enabled them to be amended to continue to function effectively after the UK left the EU.
3.2	The EU has recently reviewed its toy safety legislation and introduced Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 on the safety of toys which replaces the EU Toys Directive and includes new specific safety requirements to ensure children and consumers are protected from modern day risks. The EU Toys Regulation entered into force across the EU on 1 January 2026, with a transition period up to 1 August 2030 (meaning the new rules will not apply until that date).
3.3	The key objective of the new EU Toy Safety Regulation is to achieve a higher level of child protection and reduce the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the EU market. Whilst some requirements remain the same, the EU Toys Regulation introduces some key changes which include, but are not limited to, the following: • Updated approach on chemicals: The existing ban on carcinogenic and mutagenic substances and substances toxic for reproduction is extended to chemicals that are particularly harmful to children, such as endocrine disruptors, substances that harm the respiratory system, and chemicals that are toxic for the skin and other organs. Allergenic fragrances will be prohibited in toys for children under 36 months and in toys designed to be placed in the mouth. • Digital Product Passport (DPP): Toys will have to display a DPP which is similar to the current 'Declaration of Conformity' but requires additional information such as the CE marking, the customs commodity code and how consumers can contact the manufacturer in case of a complaint. The manufacturer should upload the information to the EU digital registry (which at the time of writing is undergoing development). The information should be publicly available through a data carrier (QR code or similar) and must be affixed to the toy or its label. • Internet-connected toys and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Manufacturers placing toys on the EU market may need to meet other EU regulations in addition to the Toy Safety

	Regulation, such as the EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) or Cyber Resilience Act where relevant. Under the EU AI Act, certain AI systems are prohibited (e.g. in an AI-enabled toy that encourages children to engage in risky behaviours). In other cases, an AI-enabled toy will need to meet certain 'high-risk' rules where the AI performs a safety feature, and the toy is required to undergo third party conformity assessment. The EU Cyber Resilience Act also introduces certain technical, reporting and conformity requirements for internet connected toys. The Toy Safety Regulation itself has very limited AI or cyber requirements, namely that manufacturers of toys in scope of either act must account for particular vulnerabilities of children in their safety assessment. • Online marketplaces obligations: Online marketplaces will be required to display a link to the Digital Product Passport (for example, through a QR code). Online marketplaces will also have to show safety warnings and the CE marking that indicates that a product meets the EU's safety, health and environmental protection rules. Proposed UK Toy Safety Regulations and draft response to the Call for Evidence
3.4	OPSS are reviewing the UK Toys Regulations to ensure they support economic growth and innovation whilst ensuring toys are safe for children. The UK Government have also stated they are committed to reducing possible trade friction and simplifying cross-border transactions for suppliers, where it is in the interest of UK businesses and consumers.
3.5	Under current UK legislation, businesses who comply with specific requirements of the previous EU Toys Directive and apply the CE marking can continue to place these products on the market in Great Britain. The policy of CE recognition across 21 regulations, including toys, is estimated to save businesses around £640.5 million over 10 years, largely by avoiding duplicative conformity assessment costs of CE and UKCA.
3.6	Under the Windsor Framework, certain EU product regulations apply in Northern Ireland, including the EU Toys Regulation (which will apply in full after January 2030), to facilitate NI's dual access to the UK internal market and EU Single Market. The continued recognition of CE marking for toys in GB would complement the Windsor Framework arrangements by helping to smooth the flow of trade within the UK internal market. It would simplify processes for NI supply chains, supporting reduced compliance costs for business.
3.7	A response to the OPSS Call for Evidence has been drafted by Environmental Health Officers working in the area of consumer product safety, and the response highlights the Northern Ireland perspective and potential benefits of aligning regulatory requirements for Toy Safety.
3.8	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	<u>Appendices</u>
4.1	Appendix 1: Draft Belfast City Council consultation response to the call for evidence on the Toys Safety Regulations