



Subject:	Response from Minister of State for Northern Ireland
Date:	12th November, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	Correspondence has been received from the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. Robin Walker MP, in response to the Brexit Committee's letter in relation to the UK Government's commitment to the NI Protocol.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the response received from the Cabinet Office.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting on 10th September, Members agreed to the following proposal which was ratified by Council at its meeting on 1st October:

	<p>“This Council notes with concern that provisions held within the recently published “Internal Market Bill” seek to undermine the agreed protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland. This protocol guarantees that, whatever the circumstances post the end of the transition period, that there will be no hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, it protects provisions held within the Good Friday Agreement, preserves North-South cooperation and maintains the all-island economy.</p>
3.2	<p>This Council further notes with concern that comments made recently by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland outlines the Government’s ambition to break international law as set out within the Withdrawal Agreement.</p>
3.3	<p>This Council will write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier, and the Taoiseach Micheál Martin, to reiterate this Council’s support for the Irish protocol and furthermore express our concern and urge the British Government to honour its commitments to the people of Northern Ireland, and to the EU and to ensure the full implementation of the agreed protocol, and prioritise peace and stability on the Island of Ireland.</p> <p>Furthermore this Council will write to Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Richard Neal, and US Representative Brendan Boyle to thank them on behalf of the citizens of Belfast on their public stance in relation to their intention to vote down any trade deal with the British Government if they break the terms of the Good Friday Agreement and to ask them to remain steadfast in their resolve to protect the rights of the citizens of this island and to continue to protect the Good Friday Agreement in all of its parts.”</p> <p>Democratic Services wrote to the aforementioned persons on 2nd October, 2020 to respond with any comments which they might wish to make in relation to the Council’s position.</p> <p>A response from the Northern Ireland Office is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None</p>
	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response received from the Minister of State for Northern Ireland.</p>