

From: Minister Covenys Office <noreplymco-dfat@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 1 March 2023 14:41
To: Stephanie Bollard <Stephanie.Bollard@oireachtas.ie>; Regina Boyle <Regina.Boyle@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: Response to your correspondence - DFA-MCO-17726-2022

Ms Regina Boyle
BIPA Joint Clerk

Reference No: DFA-MCO-17726-2022

Dear Ms Boyle,

On behalf of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Micheál Martin TD, I wish to thank you for your letter of 20 January 2023 enclosing a copy of Committee C's report on "The effects of the post-Brexit trading environment on UK-Irish trade", which was adopted by the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly at its 62nd Plenary in Cavan in October.

The Tánaiste welcomes this timely and insightful report. The Tánaiste fully agrees with the Committee that it is important that we find agreeable solutions around the Northern Ireland Protocol and sees the ongoing engagements between the EU and UK negotiating teams as a positive step. The Government fully supports the European Commission's approach aimed at finding joint solutions to the genuine concerns raised by businesses and communities in Northern Ireland.

Brexit, as pursued by the UK Government, was always going to bring challenges for businesses and citizens on this island. The Irish Government has invested significant resources to support Irish traders and operators manage and adapt to these changes.

Following substantial work undertaken by businesses and government to adjust to the new permanent trading arrangements between Ireland and the UK after the end of the transition period, it is welcome to see recent record levels of exports and strong growth opportunities for Irish businesses.

The UK remains a key market for Irish food exports, for Irish SMEs, and for our tourism sector. The Government will continue to work with business to ensure that sufficient supports are in place, including in relation to the introduction of the UK's own import controls.

In closing, please pass on to Committee C Chair, Brendan Howlin TD and Vice-Chair Stephen Doughty MP, and all members of the Committee the Tánaiste's sincere appreciation for their work and recommendations on "The effects of the post-Brexit trading environment on UK-Irish trade."

Yours sincerely,

Ciarán Doyle
Private Secretary to the Tánaiste and
Minister for Foreign Affairs