



GOVERNMENT WHIPS' OFFICE
HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

FROM THE BARONESS PENN
GOVERNMENT WHIP DFE DHSC HMT
020-7219 3778

Telephone 020-7219 3131
www.lordswhips.org.uk
holgovernmentwhips@parliament.uk

2 December 2020

**MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES BILL: UK GOVERNMENT
INTERACTIONS WITH NI EXECUTIVE**

Dear Baroness Wheeler, Baroness Ritchie,

I would firstly like to thank you both for your engagement during Committee Stage of the Medicines and Medical Devices (MMD) Bill. This letter addresses the question raised in relation to interactions between UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive on the future of Medicines and Medical Devices regulation. Lord Bethell has met/spoken to Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA twice on the Bill and approach for medicines and medical devices within it.

Current arrangements with UK Government and NI Executive

As I mentioned in my speech, officials in the Department of Health and Social Care meet every two weeks with officials at the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss regulation of medicines and devices and to ensure that a strong working relationship exists. Officials have been working closely with NI Executive officials to prepare for the end of the transition period and have shared with them the following Statutory Instruments (SI): Human Medicines (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, and Medical Devices (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

The NI Executive was formally consulted for the medicines and clinical trials SI, where regulation is devolved. Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA gave consent for the SI to

The Baroness Wheeler MBE
The Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick
House of Lords

be made for Northern Ireland in a letter to the Department on the 13 October 2020. This SI will be back in The House of Lords to debate on 2 December, subject to its being approved by noble Lords. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care will sign on behalf of Northern Ireland as well as Great Britain. Consent was not needed for the medical devices SI as it is a reserved matter.

We will continue to engage with the Northern Ireland Executive as the plans for the future regulatory environment for devices and medicines develops.

On a different note, I would also like to thank you for your questions on the topic of regulatory divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which I hope I have answered sufficiently. If you have any further questions, I or my officials would be pleased to provide further information as helpful. The Bill team can be contacted at MMD-Bill@dhsc.gov.uk.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

BARONESS PENN