



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Dame Angela Eagle
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 June 2023

Dear Dame Angela,

Thank you for the questions you raised at the Finance Bill Public Bill Committee on 18 May regarding clause 322, which enables the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA) to set Air Passenger Duty (APD) rates for the new ultra-long-haul band for direct flights departing Northern Ireland, and on the Joint Unit for Waste Crime (JUWC).

On APD and NI, it is only the rate setting power for direct long-haul flights that has been devolved. This was done in the Finance Act 2012, which supported the Government's objective of stimulating the economy in Northern Ireland. Changes to the structure of the tax, such as the creation of new bands, is for the UK Government. The clause does not impinge on the devolved powers.

The way the Finance Bill legislation has been framed with respect to NI means that direct ultra-long-haul flights are a category of direct long-haul flights and, as such, the nil rate which I understand that the NIA has set for direct long-haul flights applies to direct ultra-long-haul flights too. The NIA will have the ability to set different rates for long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights should it wish to do so in the future.

My officials have engaged with officials in the NI Executive on these reforms throughout, including during 2021 while the Executive was functioning. This also includes specific discussions on the Finance Bill legislation.

On the JUWC, you asked about fines levied and successful prosecutions. The JUWC engages with around 118 partner agencies including the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, HMRC, National Crime Agency, National Police Chiefs' Council, British Transport Police, and National Fire Chiefs' Council.

The JUWC aims to ensure the most effective response to waste crime, which extends beyond prosecutions and fines, for example crushing vehicles involved in waste crime. Since the unit was set up, it has led or supported over 60 operations and partner agencies have made 167 arrests. The JUWC post details of multi-agency days of action targeting waste crime on Twitter.

The specific outcomes of these activities are typically handled by and attributed to individual member agencies, details of which are available through their discrete reporting systems rather than directly through the JUWC itself.

I hope this information is helpful. I am copying this letter to the Chairs and other members of the Public Bill Committee and a copy of this letter will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gareth Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gareth Davies MP
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY