



## Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Sir Desmond,

### **PRAM Bill Second Reading**

I am writing to follow up on your comments during the second reading of the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill on 1 April 2025, and specifically your question about a perceived change in terminology from using 'weights and measures' to 'metrology'.

Both terms are in common use today, with metrology understood as the science of weights and measures, or measurement. As Adam Thompson MP set out very eloquently in his later contribution to the same debate, the practice of metrology has ancient roots, with the earliest recorded systems of weights and measures originating in the 3rd or 4th millennium BCE. The word metrology has its origins in the Greek word 'metron' meaning measure and use of the word 'metrology', far from being a new term, has a lengthy history, being first used in the early 1800s.

The word metrology may be used interchangeably with the term 'weights and measures', but regardless of how it is referred to, it plays an important role in trade, science, and innovation.

The UK's National Physical Laboratory defines metrology as not just about the routine making of measurements, it's about the infrastructure that ensures that we have confidence in the accuracy of the measurement. It establishes a common understanding of units and measurement processes, crucial to human activity and modern society. The use of the word 'metrology' in this Bill is therefore to ensure we accurately convey the subject of those relevant clauses and is in line with common usage.

The powers set out in the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill will allow the metrology legislative framework to be updated to adapt and respond to changes brought about by technology and innovation. It will also ensure the UK is able to maintain international alignment on standard units of measurement (SI Units) by continuing to meet its international obligations as a member of the General Conference on Weights and Measures.

I hope this letter provides detail on the issue that you raised. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP**  
Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade