

# NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS BILL

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Nuclear Safeguards Bill as introduced in the House of Commons on 11 October 2017 (Bill 109).

- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes explain what each part of the Bill will mean in practice; provide background information on the development of policy; and provide additional information on how the Bill will affect existing legislation in this area.
- These Explanatory Notes might best be read alongside the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

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## Overview of the Bill

- 1 The Nuclear Safeguards Bill creates the legal framework for a nuclear safeguards regime to operate in the United Kingdom. This domestic regime will replace the current legal framework provided principally by the United Kingdom's membership of the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom"). Nuclear safeguards arrangements enable the United Kingdom to meet international nuclear safeguards standards and engage in certain international civil nuclear activities, including trade and research and development.
- 2 Nuclear safeguards primarily involve reporting and verification processes by which the United Kingdom demonstrates to the international community that civil nuclear material is not diverted into military or weapons programmes. Nuclear safeguard procedures can include accountancy and reporting on civil nuclear material holdings and development plans, verification (including inspections of nuclear facilities by international inspectors), containment measures and surveillance (including cameras in selected facilities). Nuclear safeguards are distinct from nuclear safety (the prevention of nuclear accidents) and nuclear security (physical protection measures), which are the subject of independent regulatory provisions.
- 3 The Bill amends the Energy Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act") to replace the existing nuclear safeguards purposes of the Office of Nuclear Regulation ("ONR"). The ONR is the United Kingdom's nuclear regulator. The ONR has five purposes which define its areas of responsibility and where it will be able to exercise functions. Currently, the nuclear safeguards purposes of the ONR is defined by reference to Euratom and existing agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency ("IAEA") (which also depend on membership of Euratom). The new nuclear safeguards purposes of the ONR will require it to ensure compliance with regulations on nuclear safeguards made by the Secretary of State and to ensure compliance of the United Kingdom with international agreements relating to nuclear safeguards.
- 4 The Bill provides powers to the Secretary of State to make nuclear safeguards regulations, which will set out the detail of the domestic regime for nuclear safeguards. The regulation-making power can also be used to implement the new international agreements the United Kingdom envisages concluding (for example, with the IAEA).
- 5 The Bill also provides a regulation-making power to the Secretary of State to amend certain legislation (including primary legislation, as set out below) which make reference to parts of existing agreements on nuclear safeguards between the IAEA and the United Kingdom. These references will need to be updated when the existing agreements with the IAEA are replaced with new ones (which are currently being negotiated).

## Policy background

- 6 On 1 July 1968, the United Kingdom signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ("NPT"). Under the NPT, the nuclear weapon states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) undertake not to transfer nuclear weapons or any other explosives devices, and not to support manufacture or acquisition of such weapons or devices by non-nuclear weapon states. Non-nuclear-weapon states undertake not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept international monitoring of their nuclear material by the IAEA pursuant to "full-scope or comprehensive safeguards agreements".
- 7 The IAEA is the UN-associated body responsible for oversight of the global non-proliferation

regime and safeguards arrangements. A fundamental principle of the global non-proliferation and safeguards regime is that nuclear safeguards oversight is independent of the country, therefore providing reassurance to international partners that material from civil nuclear programmes is not used otherwise than for civil activities (and therefore not for weapons purposes). As such, the nuclear weapon states have voluntarily accepted international monitoring of their civil nuclear material, with exemptions for defence purposes, through IAEA safeguards.

- 8 On 1 January 1973, the United Kingdom became a member of Euratom and of the European Community (which has since evolved to become today's European Union). One of Euratom's functions is to implement a system of safeguards to control the use of nuclear materials within EU member states. Consequently, the United Kingdom's current safeguard regime and its main international agreements on nuclear safeguards with the IAEA are fundamentally underpinned by the United Kingdom's membership of Euratom.
- 9 The European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 16 March 2017.
- 10 On 29 March 2017 the Prime Minister gave notification of withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and from Euratom under section 1(1) of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017<sup>1</sup>.
- 11 Following its notification to the European Commission, the Government set out its intention to legislate to put in place a domestic safeguards regime operated by the existing nuclear regulator, the ONR. The ONR currently performs inspections on United Kingdom nuclear facilities for a range of purposes safety and security (and it has a complementary role supporting Euratom's and the IAEA's work in respect of nuclear safeguards).
- 12 The new domestic safeguards regime will replace the current regime operated by Euratom that will cease to have effect in the United Kingdom in 2019. The Queen's Speech on 21 June 2017 included a Nuclear Safeguards Bill. The Government said:

"The Bill will establish a UK nuclear safeguards regime as we leave the European Union and Euratom. The Bill will give the Office for Nuclear Regulation powers to take on the role and responsibilities required to meet our international safeguards, and nuclear non-proliferation, obligations."
- 13 Upon withdrawal from Euratom, the United Kingdom's main agreements with the IAEA will become ineffective (as they are based on Euratom membership) and will need to be renegotiated to provide for the United Kingdom's future safeguards obligations. A new domestic nuclear safeguards regime is therefore essential to ensure the United Kingdom is able to meet the future obligations that are to be negotiated with the IAEA or other states.
- 14 The new domestic nuclear safeguards regime will therefore provide the necessary flexibility to implement obligations from relevant international agreements.
- 15 There are no plans to consult formally at this stage; this is as the aim of this legislation is to create a framework to ensure continuity in the United Kingdom's ability to meet its

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 50 as applied by Article 106a of the Treaty Establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.

international nuclear non-proliferation obligations. There would however be a full consultation on the new domestic safeguards regime and impact assessment around subsequent secondary legislation which would detail the scope of a future regime, including specific reporting requirements.

## Legal background

- 16 The Energy Act 2013 established the ONR as the United Kingdom's independent nuclear regulatory body in 2014 (with certain functions having rested with the Health and Safety Executive). The Energy Act 2013 sets out the purposes of the ONR, which define the five areas of regulatory responsibility: those relating to nuclear safety, nuclear health and safety, nuclear security, nuclear safeguards, and transport of radioactive material. In addition to this section 74 of the Energy Act 2013 provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations (known as "nuclear regulations") for four of the ONR's purposes, including the nuclear safeguards purposes.
- 17 Under section 72 of the Energy Act 2013 the "nuclear safeguards purposes" means the purposes of (a) ensuring compliance by the United Kingdom with the safeguards obligations and (b) the development of any future safeguards obligations. "The safeguards obligations" is then defined by section 93(2) of the Energy Act 2013 as comprising the following:
  - a. articles 77 to 85 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, signed at Rome on 25 March 1957 ("the Euratom Treaty");
  - b. the agreement made on 6 September 1976 between the United Kingdom, the European Atomic Energy Community and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in the United Kingdom in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
  - c. the protocol signed at Vienna on 22 September 1998 additional to the agreement mentioned in paragraph (b); and
  - d. such other obligations, agreements or arrangements relating to nuclear safeguards as may be specified in a notice given to the ONR by the Secretary of State.
- 18 The detail of the safeguards regime is set out in Commission Regulation (Euratom) No. 302/2005 of 8 February 2005 on the application of Euratom safeguards ("the Euratom Regulation"), made under the Euratom Treaty. The Euratom Regulation imposes the detailed technical requirements on those holding civil nuclear material and takes effect automatically in United Kingdom law by virtue of the European Communities Act 1972 (without specific domestic implementing legislation).
- 19 As a result, the United Kingdom's safeguards regime generally, and the ONR's nuclear safeguards purposes specifically, are fundamentally underpinned by the United Kingdom's membership of Euratom. Euratom is a party to the United Kingdom's two main agreements with the IAEA (and many of the United Kingdom's obligations to the IAEA are discharged by virtue of membership of Euratom). As such, the United Kingdom existing nuclear safeguards regime will become ineffective on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Euratom Treaty.
- 20 This Bill confers a regulation-making power which will enable the Secretary of State to put in place the detailed requirements that are necessary for a nuclear safeguards regime, including by imposing obligations on those who hold nuclear materials. The regulation-making power can be used to implement the new international agreements the United Kingdom envisages concluding (for example, with the IAEA). The power can also be used to impose domestic

standards.

- 21 The ONR's nuclear safeguards purposes are amended to reflect the fact that the obligations it will be responsible for ensuring compliance with will be contained within domestic regulations and new international agreements (rather than the Euratom Regulation). The ONR, rather than the European Commission, will become the regulator.
- 22 The nature of safeguards regimes is such that the substantive provisions are detailed and technical in nature. This will be the case for the domestic safeguards regime put in place under the powers in the Bill. The majority of this detail will be laid out in regulations which will, on first use, be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure. These regulations will place obligations on those responsible for "qualifying nuclear material", "qualifying nuclear facilities" and "qualifying nuclear equipment", including in respect of: record-keeping and accounting, the provision of information, inspection and monitoring, imports and exports, the design of qualifying nuclear facilities or equipment and the production, processing, use, handling, storage or disposal of qualifying nuclear material or equipment.
- 23 In addition to the provisions of the Energy Act 2013 there are additional pieces of legislation (i.e. the Nuclear Safeguards and Electricity (Finance) Act 1978, the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000 and the Nuclear Safeguards (Notification) Regulations 2004) that implement the United Kingdom's existing nuclear safeguards obligations. These will not operate properly after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from Euratom due to their detailed references to provisions of the United Kingdom's existing nuclear safeguards agreements with the IAEA. The consequential amendments necessary to these pieces of legislation will depend on new safeguards agreements between the United Kingdom and the IAEA that are currently being negotiated; as such the United Kingdom will need to maintain flexibility to ensure these future agreements can be implemented in domestic legislation. A power to allow this legislation to be amended in this way is taken in clause 2 of the Bill.

## Territorial extent and application

- 24 The provisions of the Bill extend to the whole of the United Kingdom.
- 25 Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide that the provisions of the Energy Act 2013 (including as amended by this Bill) apply, so far as specified, in relation to persons, premises, activities, articles, substances or other matters, outside the United Kingdom as they apply within the United Kingdom.
- 26 The power under clause 2 of the Bill includes power to amend the Nuclear Safeguards and Electricity (Finance) Act 1978 (“1978 Act”) and the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000 (“2000 Act”). Section 12(4) of the 2000 Act enables Her Majesty by Order in Council to direct that provisions of the 1978 or 2000 Acts to extend to any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or any British overseas territory. Clause 3(3) of the Bill ensures that the power under section 12(4) of the 2000 Act may be exercised in relation to any amendment or repeal of the 1978 or 2000 Act made by regulations under clause 2.
- 27 Nuclear safeguards are not devolved; the provisions of the Bill are not within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly. Accordingly, this would not engage the legislative consent motion process.
- 28 The table in Annex A provides a summary of the position regarding territorial extent and application in the United Kingdom. The table also summarises the position regarding Legislative Consent Motions and matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83J to 83X of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business.

# Commentary on provisions of Bill

## Clause 1: Nuclear safeguards

- 29 Clause 1(1) provides a new definition of the Office of Nuclear Regulation's (ONR) nuclear safeguards purposes (found in section 72 of the Energy Act 2013) to reflect the domestic regime that will be put in place following Euratom withdrawal. The new nuclear safeguards purposes are:
- a. ensuring compliance with nuclear safeguards regulations (to be made under the new 76A section, considered below);
  - b. ensuring compliance by the United Kingdom with international agreements relating to nuclear safeguards to which the United Kingdom is a party and which are specified in regulations (called "relevant international agreements" in the Bill: see the discussion of clause 1(3) below);
  - c. the development of any future obligations relating to nuclear safeguards.
- 30 Clause 1(2) inserts a new section 76A to the Energy Act 2013. Section 76A provides the Secretary of State with new regulation-making powers relating to nuclear safeguards.
- 31 The power may be exercised to make provision for the purpose of:
- a. ensuring that qualifying nuclear material, facilities or equipment are only available for use for civil activities (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere), or
  - b. giving effect to the provisions of a relevant international agreement (see below).
- 32 Subsection (2) sets out examples of the safeguards obligations that can be imposed through nuclear safeguards regulations. They can, for example, make provision relating to: record-keeping or accounting, the provision or publication of information, inspection or monitoring, imports or exports, the design of qualifying nuclear facilities or equipment, and the production, processing, use, handling, storage or disposal of qualifying nuclear material or equipment.
- 33 Subsection (3) applies certain provisions of the existing regulation-making power in sections 74, 75, 76 of, and Schedule 6 to, the Energy Act 2013, to section 76A safeguards regulations. These include the provisions which allow obligations imposed by the regulations to be enforced by creating criminal offences or civil liability.
- 34 Subsection (4) provides an exemption in relation to United Kingdom defence purposes, which are the purposes of the Secretary of State with responsibility for defence. Separate and distinct regimes apply to nuclear materials required for national security.
- 35 As noted above, subsection (1) of section 76A refers to the concept of "civil activities". Subsection (5) provides the Secretary of State with a regulation-making power to specify activities that are, or are not, to be treated as civil activities.
- 36 Subsection (6) provides that the power to make consequential and transitional, etc., provision in section 113(7) of the Energy Act 2013 can be exercised to modify retained EU law (which will have the meaning given in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill), including the Euratom Regulation. This will allow law relating to nuclear safeguards which has become ineffective on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Euratom (such as the Euratom Regulation mentioned above) to be repealed in consequence of the new regime that will be put in nuclear safeguards regulations.
- 37 Subsection (7) defines the meaning of "qualifying nuclear equipment", "qualifying nuclear

facility” and “qualifying nuclear material” (as used in subsection (1)). Subsection (8) provides the Secretary of State with a regulation-making power to specify fissionable material for the purposes of the definition of “qualifying nuclear material” in subsection (7).

- 38 Subsection (9) sets out a requirement for the Secretary of State to consult the ONR and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate to consult, before making regulations under section 76A. By virtue of subsection (10), the requirement to consult the ONR does not apply if the regulations concerned give effect to proposals submitted by the ONR under section 81(1)(a)(ia) without modification.
- 39 Clause 1(2) also inserts a new section 76B to the Energy Act 2013. Section 76B(1) provides the Secretary of State with a regulation-making power to authorise or require the ONR to reimburse costs incurred by persons complying with certain provisions of nuclear safeguards regulations.
- 40 Clause 1(3) makes amendments to section 112 of the Energy Act 2013 (interpretation), including by inserting a definition of “relevant international agreement”. This definition is relevant, amongst other things, to the ONR’s nuclear safeguards purposes (in section 72(b) as amended) and the regulation making power in section 76A(1)(b). Relevant international agreements are those to which the United Kingdom is a party, which relate to nuclear safeguards and which are specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State. Such regulations will always be subject to the affirmative procedure. The Secretary of State is required to consult the ONR and such other persons (if any) as the Secretary of State considers appropriate to consult, before specifying relevant international agreements. Undertakings given by the United Kingdom to the IAEA in respect of guidance (or any other document) issued by the IAEA are treated as “relevant international agreements” for the purposes of the Bill, again when specified in regulations subject to the affirmative procedure.
- 41 Clause 1(4) provides that consultation before the Bill is passed may satisfy the consultation requirements mentioned above.

## Clause 2: Power to amend legislation relating to nuclear safeguards

- 42 Clause 2 provides a limited power for the Secretary of State to amend, by regulations, the Nuclear Safeguards and Electricity (Finance) Act 1978 (“the 1978 Act”), the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”) and the Nuclear Safeguards (Notification) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1255) (“the 2004 Regulations”), which would otherwise become ineffective on withdrawal from Euratom.
- 43 This legislation refers to provisions of existing agreements between the United Kingdom and the IAEA. The power allows the legislation to be amended in consequence of the new agreements to be agreed with the IAEA, which will replace the existing agreements. This clause does not confer a wide discretion on the Secretary of State to change the substance of what the 1978 Act, 2000 Act and 2004 Regulations permit.

## Clause 3: Extent

- 44 Clause 3 contains technical provisions on extent. The extent of the Bill has been considered above.

## Clause 4: Commencement

- 45 The main provisions of the Bill will be commenced on a day or days appointed by the Secretary of State in regulations. A particular time of day can be appointed as well (subsection (4)).

## Schedule 1: Minor and consequential amendments

- 46 The Schedule contains minor and consequential amendments to ensure that the United Kingdom's new domestic safeguards regime will be able to operate properly.
- 47 All of the amendments, apart from the last, relate to the 2013 Act. They include:
- a. allowing the ONR to make proposals to the Secretary of State about regulations under section 76A (paragraph 3);
  - b. ensuring that the ONR must make adequate arrangements for the enforcement of nuclear safeguards regulations (paragraph 4);
  - c. adding nuclear safeguards regulations to the definition of "relevant statutory provisions" in section 82(2) of the Energy Act 2013 (many of the ONR's powers relate to giving effect to the relevant statutory provisions) (also paragraph 4);
  - d. removing the duty of the ONR in relation to nuclear safeguards contained in section 93 of the Energy Act 2013 (the effect of the duty is replicated by section 72(b) and section 78) (paragraph 6);
  - e. extending the duty of employers at work to help persons subject to obligations under nuclear safeguards regulations comply with them (the amendments to sections 102 and 104 in paragraphs 7 and 8);
  - f. setting out the parliamentary scrutiny procedures that will govern regulation-making powers inserted by the Bill (paragraph 9);
  - g. extending the review period for Part 3 of the 2013 Act from 5 years to 7 years, as otherwise the duty to review Part 3 would arise shortly before the United Kingdom withdraws from Euratom and the changes made by the Bill as regards nuclear safeguards come into force (paragraph 10);
  - h. extending the power for inspectors appointed by the ONR to issue improvement notices to non-compliance in relation to nuclear safeguards (paragraph 11)
  - i. updating the information sharing gateway that applies in relation to nuclear safeguards in consequence of the changes made by the Bill (paragraph 12);
  - j. changing the reference in the 2000 Act from "colony" to "British overseas territory" (paragraph 13).

## Commencement

- 48 Clauses 3, 4 and 5 would come into force on the day the Bill is passed. The main provisions of the Bill will be commenced on such day (or time of day) as the Secretary of State may appoint in regulations.

## Financial implications of the Bill

- 49 The public expenditure resulting from the Bill are the cost of the establishment and operation of the new regime by the ONR in line with the regulations that will be made under the powers in the Bill. The costs to set up a UK domestic safeguards regime (which remain subject to further analysis) are potentially up to £10m. This would include procurement of a new IT system, recruitment and training of a large number of inspectors and strengthening institutional capacity to deliver the project. This cost can be met from within BEIS's Spending Review allocations. The cost of any equipment currently in the United Kingdom but belonging to Euratom is a matter currently under negotiation with the European Union. The regime is also likely to involve an ongoing cost of around £10m a year, which is in line with the United Kingdom's current cost of Euratom safeguards activity in the United Kingdom.

## Parliamentary approval for financial costs or for charges imposed

- 50 A money resolution is required for the Bill. A money resolution is required where a Bill gives rise to, or creates powers that could give rise to, new or increased charges on the public revenue (broadly, new or increased expenditure).
- 51 The Bill will widen the remit of the Office for Nuclear Regulation ("the ONR"), most notably by replacing section 72 of the Energy Act 2013 with a broader definition of the ONR's nuclear safeguards purposes. Expenditure incurred by the ONR in making payments towards the costs of complying with nuclear safeguards regulations, as a result of any regulations under the new section 76B for the 2013 Act, would also be relevant. The ONR was established by section 77 of the Energy Act 2013. Paragraph 26 of Schedule 7 to that Act provides for the Secretary of State to make payments to the ONR for the purpose of enabling it to perform its functions. Such payments are made out of money provided by Parliament.
- 52 The increase in the ONR's workload as a result of the Bill is likely to lead to an increase in such payments.
- 53 Therefore, a money resolution is required to cover the potential increase in sums payable by the Secretary of State under paragraph 26 of Schedule 7 to the Energy Act 2013 out of money provided by Parliament.

## Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

- 54 The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has made the following statement regarding Human Rights: in my view the provisions of the Nuclear Safeguards Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

## Related documents

55 The following documents are relevant to the Bill and can be read at the stated locations:

- Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee Memorandum [Link to be added once published]
- Impact Assessment [Link to be added once published]
- Euratom Treaty  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012A%2FTXT>
- Euratom Regulation No 302/2005  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005R0302>
- IAEA Voluntary Offer Agreement  
[https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1978/inf\\_circ263a1.pdf](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1978/inf_circ263a1.pdf)
- IAEA Additional Protocol  
[https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1978/inf\\_circ263a1.pdf](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1978/inf_circ263a1.pdf)
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20070807060917/http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf>

## Annex A - Territorial extent and application in the United Kingdom

56 Clause 3 sets out the territorial extent of the Bill, that is the jurisdictions of which the Bill forms part of the law. The extent of a Bill can be different from its application. Application is about where a Bill produces practical effects. The Bill extends and applies to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (in the case of amendments, to the same extent as the provision amended).

57 The Bill will not change existing arrangements with respect to the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and British overseas territories but ensures that the power in the 2000 Act to extend the provisions of the 1978 and 2000 Acts to those islands and territories is preserved (\*see clauses 3(2) and 3(3)).

58 There is also a power to give Part 3 of the Energy Act 2013 certain extra-territorial application (section 117), but this power has not been exercised.<sup>2</sup>

Provision	Extends to E & W and applies to England?	Extends to E & W and applies to Wales?	Extends and applies to Scotland?	Extends and applies to Northern Ireland?	Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the National Assembly for Wales?	Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the Scottish Parliament?	Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly?	Likely to engage the Legislative Consent Motion process?
1 Nuclear Safeguards	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
2 Power to amend legislation relating to nuclear safeguards	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
3 Extent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
4 Commencement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
5 Short title	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
Schedule 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No

<sup>2</sup> References in this Annex to a provision being within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly are to the provision being within the legislative competence of the relevant devolved legislature for the purposes of Standing Order No. 83J of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business.





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