

The Highlighter

1ST OF MAY, 2023 | PAGE ONE

Welcome to the May 2023 issue of The Highlighter!

In this issue you will find articles about:

- The Windsor Framework
- The Illegal Migration Bill
- Councillor elections
- Sports

This issue of The Highlighter contains a special feature on The Windsor Framework. We are explaining what it is and what it means for Northern Ireland. We also got the opportunity to ask local politicians questions about the Windsor Framework! You'll find their answers on page six and seven.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHTER?

We know the news can be confusing, complicated and hard to keep up with. The news can also be overwhelming at times and can make us feel scared, stressed and worried. The Highlighter aims to help make the news feel more accessible for people, including people with learning disabilities and autism.



The Windsor Framework

WHAT IS THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK?

The Windsor Framework is an agreement between the UK and the European Union. The European Union is an organisation made up of 27 different countries in Europe that work together on things like trade and letting people travel between their countries easily.

After the U.K. left the European Union (this is usually referred to as Brexit), we had to come up with new trade deals. This is because Northern Ireland shares a border with the Republic of Ireland who are still part of the European Union. The Windsor Framework is a set of rules about how we will buy, sell and transport things between these countries.



Trade rules determine how items like food are transported across borders for buying and selling. Trade rules also include rules about:

- how much money businesses are taxed (charged) to bring their products into different countries.
- the health of animals and plants in farms and factories and while being transported.
- 'workers rights' which determine how company employees are treated, such as how many breaks they have and how long they have to work every day.

WHAT ARE RED LANES AND GREEN LANES?

As part of the Windsor Framework, there will be new 'green lanes' and 'red lanes'. These are different lanes that trucks and delivery vans will enter when they are crossing from England, Scotland and Wales into Northern Ireland or from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland.

Goods (such as food, plants and medicine) being brought into Northern Ireland will be divided into either a red lane or a green lane.

The green lane will be for goods that are destined for Northern Ireland. If goods are to be brought into the south of Ireland or travel further to other E.U. countries (like Spain or France), they will need to go through the 'red lane'.



For example, if a lorry travelling from England is carrying food that will be sold in a Belfast supermarket, then it will go through the 'green lane'.

If a lorry carrying food from England is only passing through Northern Ireland on its way to Dublin where the food will be sold, it will need to go through the 'red lane'. This lorry will need to go through much more custom checks than the first lorry.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK?

You might have heard other names that refer to what is now called the Windsor Deal, such as the Northern Ireland Protocol, Irish Sea border or Northern Ireland deal. The deal has been referred to as several terms since politicians began working on it.

The Windsor Framework is named after Windsor Great Park. This is because the Prime Minister and the President of the EU met in a hotel in the park on the day the deal was announced.

WHAT IS THE STORMONT BRAKE?

You might have heard people talking about the Stormont Brake on the news. The Stormont Brake is part of the Windsor Framework and means politicians in Northern Ireland can object (say no to) any new rules on trade that the European Union introduce.

WHY DO SOME POLITICIANS NOT LIKE THE WINDSOR AGREEMENT?

Some people, including politicians, want Northern Ireland to have the same trade rules as the rest of the UK, but others think we should have the same as the Republic of Ireland.

POLITICIANS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS!

If you follow our social media pages, you may have seen us asking for your questions to Northern Irish politicians about the Windsor Framework.

On the next page you will find the questions we asked and their answers. We hope to do this again sometime so please get in touch with us if you'd like to ask a politician a question in the future.

Here's some handy information before you read the answers:

- **MLA** is short for 'Member of the Legislative Assembly'. MLAs are our elected politicians in Northern Ireland who work in the Assembly (also called Stormont).
- **Devolution** refers to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the powers that were given to them by the U.K. government when the Assembly was created. The word 'devolve' means to pass something on, such as powers or rights.

Question: Why is the Windsor Framework needed?

Answer: *"The SDLP believes the Windsor Framework, while imperfect, provides a clear path towards the restoration of devolution and a unique investment proposition for people in Northern Ireland."*

Cara Hunter, MLA for the political party called the SDLP

Question: Will the deal change what's for sale in the supermarket?

Answer: *"No the deal won't change what's for sale in the supermarket, everything that was already available will be available - it will just make it easier at the back end."*

Kate Nicholl, MLA for the political party called the Alliance Party

Question:**When will the changes take place?**

Answer: "Some aspects of the Windsor Framework implementation will be phased in over a period of time, for example the labelling of certain agri-food products as "Not for EU" will be phased in between 2023 and 2025. Other aspects will take time to be fully implemented or constructed, as was already the case with the existing Protocol, for example it is expected that control posts in Northern Ireland will not be completed until 2025, with the accompanying red and green lanes facilitated by the Framework to be added by then.

Most of the Framework will need to be approved in the UK Parliament by legislation, and the timeline for this is not clear at this stage. The only section that has been fully implemented is the final section 'Addressing the Democratic Deficit,' i.e. the Stormont brake mechanism, through the passage of The Windsor Framework (Democratic Scrutiny) Regulations 2023. It is expected that the rest of the Framework will be adopted by the UK through similar regulations, most likely later this year"

Danny Donnelly, MLA for the political party called the Alliance Party

The Illegal Migration Bill

You might have seen and heard a lot of people talking about refugees, migrants, and immigration recently. That is probably because the UK government have announced a new bill about immigration.

WHAT IS A BILL?

A bill is a document written by the government that aims to change a law. Once a bill is written, it has to go through different stages and be approved by the government in order to become a law. During these stages, there might be additions or changes to the bill, or it might be dismissed (cancelled or gotten rid of) entirely.

WHAT IS THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL?

If it becomes law, the illegal migration bill would change the rules about people who immigrate into the UK, including people who arrive in the UK to ask for asylum (asylum seekers). The politicians who wrote the bill want to make the lives of people who come to the UK illegally more difficult as they believe this will stop people trying to come here in the future.

WHAT DO THE TERMS 'ASYLUM SEEKER' AND 'REFUGEE' MEAN?

An asylum seeker is someone who has had to run away from their home as it is dangerous for them. They might be leaving their home because there is a war there or because the government wants to put them in prison for being gay or for their religious beliefs. There are lots of different reasons why they might need to leave. Once they have left, they will travel to a different country and ask if they can live there instead. This is called 'seeking asylum'.

Once the government has checked that an asylum seeker is telling the truth about why they left their country, they are given legal protection and are now called a refugee.

The Illegal Migration Bill (Continued from previous page)

SMALL BOATS

You might have heard people refer to the Illegal Migration Bill as the 'small boats bill'. Small boats refer to the boats that many asylum seekers travel across the sea in, often from France to the south of England. These boats are often have too many people in them and the journey can be very dangerous. The Illegal Migration Bill will change the law so that anyone who is arriving on one of these boats is not allowed to seek asylum and they will be removed from the UK.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

On Thursday the 18th May 2023, there will be an election for people to vote for local Councillors. Councillors work for local councils and there is a total of 11 different councils across Northern Ireland.

Councillors work to represent people who live in their local community and may be part of a political party or they may be independent, which means they don't work for a political party.

Mencap have written an Easy Read Guide to voting in Northern Ireland local council elections, which you can find on their website at:

<https://northernireland.mencap.org.uk/support-us/policy-and-research-northern-ireland/support-vote>

Sports



The Six Nations Championship

Ireland won the Six Nations Rugby tournament which takes place every year between Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy.

Ireland won all their games, beating the other five teams to complete what is known as a 'Grand Slam'.

France won four of their five games and finished second. Scotland finished third, England finished fourth and Wales finished fifth.

Italy lost all their games and finished last in the tournament.

The teams are now preparing for the Rugby World Cup which takes place between 8 September 2023 and 28 October 2023 in stadiums across France.

Sports



Gary Lineker and Match of the Day


You may have heard a lot of news about Gary Lineker and the BBC. Here's a summary of what happened:

Gary Lineker is a famous TV presenter for a football show called Match of the Day on BBC One. He was suspended by the BBC for one episode when he criticised a UK Government policy on refugees in a tweet.

Some people were unhappy with his comments and asked for him to be sacked by the BBC.

Lineker refused to apologise for his comments and returned to host the program as normal the following week.

We want your feedback!

 We hope you are enjoying reading The Highlighter newspaper and find it helpful.

This month, we'd love to hear your feedback on The Highlighter. What do you find useful or enjoy the most about this newspaper? Is there anything you'd like to see us include in future issues?

We'd also like to know if you'd be interested in reading The Highlighter in print or listen to it in an audio version (like a podcast).

Let us know by emailing us at
hello@thehighlighter.com

All the articles in this issue were correct at the time of writing but remember that news can change fast!

The Highlighter is now on Twitter! Our Twitter username is @NIHighlighter

You can also visit our website: thehighlighter.org