



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny
Committee

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Regulation (EU) 2024/1610 strengthening
the CO₂ emission performance standards for
new heavy-duty vehicles

20 June 2024

Ms Bunting: We understand that this happens regularly, and they are used to this kind of change. It is not a significant thing. Do we have any concept as to how many businesses in Northern Ireland might be impacted by it?

Mrs Cutrona: At this point, it is probably no businesses. There are very few trailer manufacturers here in Northern Ireland. Our understanding is that e-trailers are the massive trailers that supermarkets use, and I do not think that there are any manufacturers in Northern Ireland that do that kind of trailer work. It is a relatively new concept. DfT has said that it is a niche market at the moment. The change is being made to the definition to future-proof. Basically, it is —.

Ms Bunting: It is OK, Dorcas. A lot of this was in our papers, and it is just important to confirm, for the record, that that is the case: it is all very minimal, things have been checked out and the impact on Northern Ireland is negligible. That is what we were aiming to confirm with you, because it is one thing to hear it from DfT but another to hear it from local people. That is great. Thank you.

Mrs Cutrona: We have the wording change, if you want to be advised as to the actual change. Would that help?

The Chairperson (Mr McGuigan): Do you want to read that out?

Mr David Gibson (Department for Infrastructure): Regulation (EU) 2018/858 used to say:

"semi-trailer' means a towed vehicle in which the axle, or axles are positioned behind the centre of gravity of the vehicle (when uniformly loaded), and which is equipped with a connecting device permitting horizontal and vertical forces to be transmitted to the towing vehicle".

The definition of "semi-trailer" is changing from "means a towed vehicle" to "means a trailer". That is the change there.

The definition of "e-trailer" is:

"any kind of trailer that is able to contribute to the propulsion of the vehicle combination by using its own electric powertrain and which is not able to be used on public roads without being actively towed by a motor vehicle".

That is just a new definition to be inserted.

The Chairperson (Mr McGuigan): Thank you very much. That may be one of the easiest evidence sessions that you are going to be involved in. *[Laughter.]*