

## Annex 1

### **Summary of parliamentary scrutiny process**

Throughout the scrutiny process, the governments will be able to share the same information at the same time, with their legislatures.

#### Phase 2

At the end of Phase 2 policy leads will prepare a summary of the draft outline Framework agreement to be jointly written by all four governments to inform stakeholder engagement.

#### Phase 3

At the same time as it is sent to technical stakeholders, the summary of the draft outline Framework agreement will be sent by each government to their respective legislature with an offer of a technical briefing by the policy team to answer any questions the committee members might have at this stage. This will help inform preparation for future parliamentary scrutiny when the content of the agreement is more comprehensively developed.

At this point the policy team should consult with committee clerks and agree timings for the scrutiny process. It will be important that both sufficient time is allowed for the committees to conduct their scrutiny while ensuring the delivery timeline is met.

Committee members in each legislature will then decide the approach they wish to take to the scrutiny of the Framework including whether they wish to take evidence from Ministers, officials and/or stakeholders. At this point, officials and parliamentarians will agree a deadline, after provisional Framework publication at the end of Phase 3, for recommendations to be received by Ministers from committees.

Committee members may choose to write to Ministers on the content of these summaries, which Ministers should be prepared for.

#### Phase 4

After Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) (“JMC(EN)”) Ministers provisionally agree the full outline Framework, each of the governments will lay the provisional outline Framework agreement together with any related implementation products, such as any concordat associated with the framework, in its respective parliament.

Once they have agreement from JMC(EN) Ministers on their provisional outline Framework agreement, the policy team will begin finalising any additional documentation, such as concordats, where they have not already done so.

If a committee inquiry is initiated, at the end of the inquiry process the committee may set out its views on the provisional outline Framework agreement, in writing, highlighting any issues, concerns or suggestions it might have. The committee will send its views to its respective Minister. This must be received by Ministers within the agreed deadline for recommendations to be considered by governments.

Once the scrutiny process for a particular Framework is completed in all legislatures, officials and Ministers from each government will consider the response from their legislature and decide collectively whether any adjustments should be taken forward.

Any changes to the provisional outline Framework will need to be jointly agreed. If any government decides any of their committee recommendations have merit they will need to represent their committee’s views to the other governments’ respective portfolio Ministers.

The policy team will then revise the Framework to take account of any jointly agreed adjustments.

UK Government and Devolved Administration portfolio Ministers will then review and approve the revised agreement which will then be referred back to JMC(EN) Ministers for endorsement and provisional approval for implementation.

UK Government and Devolved Administration portfolio Ministers will then provide their respective legislatures with a final version of the provisional outline Framework agreement together with a written response to their respective committee's views.

**UK Frameworks - process for parliamentary engagement and scrutiny**

