

EU

BILL CASH ACCUSES RISHI OF DODGING SCRUTINY OVER WINDSOR FRAMEWORK



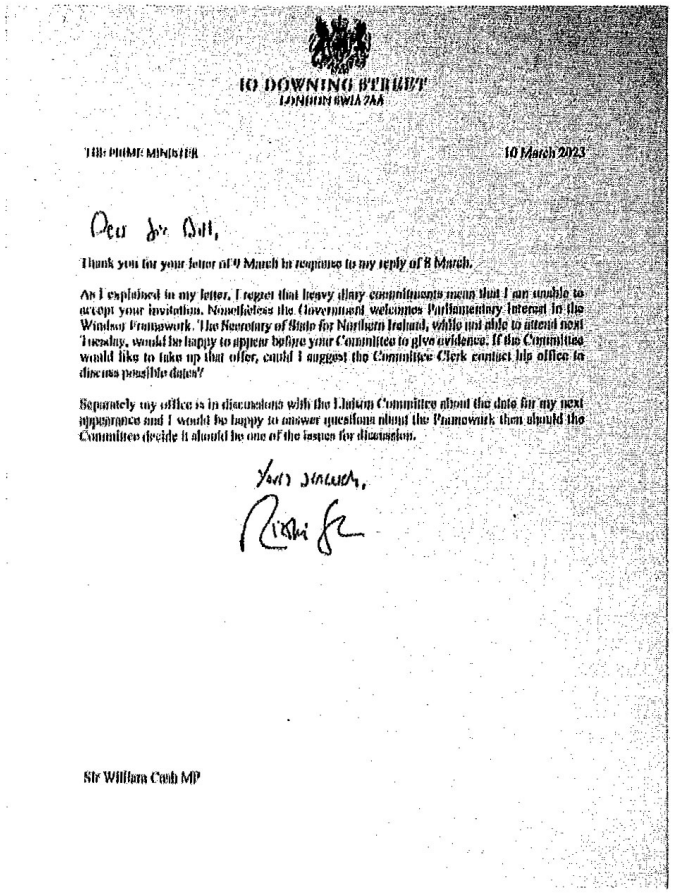
The European Scrutiny Committee, chaired by Commons grandee Sir Bill Cash, is agitating over Rishi's Windsor Framework Northern Ireland Brexit deal, demanding Parliament has *"meaningful input"* on the agreement to avoid a *"fait accompli"* between the government and the EU if the deal is signed off next week. In a new report published this afternoon, the Committee bemoan Rishi for declining their invitation to give evidence today, and claim *"he may be attempting to swerve timely scrutiny"*. Cash added:

> *"Parliament should not be railroaded into a deal that it has not had sufficient time to come to an educated choice over whether to proceed or renegotiate, which will be unlikely to happen if the*

Government were to rush ahead particularly if the EU wishes to do so. MPs in the House must have a meaningful chance at input before this happens."

The Committee add their invitation "*remains open*", and they have "*concerns*" over "*the applicability of EU law in Northern Ireland [...] the role of the European Court of Justice under the Framework, the operation of the 'Stormont Brake', and movement of goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*" In his reply to Cash last week, Rishi offered up Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris in his stead. *Looks like Cash is having none of it...*

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THE PRIME MINISTER

10 March 2023

Dear Sir Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March in response to my reply of 8 March.

As I explained in my letter, I regret that heavy diary commitments mean that I am unable to accept your invitation. Nonetheless the Government welcomes Parliamentary interest in the Windsor Framework. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, while not able to attend next Tuesday, would be happy to appear before your Committee to give evidence. If the Committee would like to take up that offer, could I suggest the Committee Clerk contact his office to discuss possible dates?

Separately my office is in discussions with the Liaison Committee about the date for my next appearance and I would be happy to answer questions about the Framework then should the Committee decide it should be one of the issues for discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Rishi Sunak

Sir William Cash MP

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Windsor Framework

Bill Cash | Rishi Sunak

March 14 2023 @ 12:58