



Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

To: All MPs

15 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

## **POST-TRANSITION PERIOD BUSINESS AND TRADE SUPPORT**

We are now three months into our new trading relationship with the EU. As a Government we are doing our utmost to help businesses understand the implications of, and capitalise on the opportunities that come from, the excellent deal we reached in December. This is how we will boost productivity, unlock investment and safeguard high value jobs in the UK.

Many businesses have prepared well, and are adapting to the new trading environment. Nonetheless, we appreciate this is a period of change for businesses, made all the more extraordinary by responding to a global pandemic. We also appreciate there have been particular issues relating to trade in goods with Northern Ireland.

Government departments have been engaging extensively with businesses across all sectors of the UK economy to support businesses adapt to our new trading relationship with the EU and compete on a global stage. Ministers talk regularly to businesses including through the weekly Brexit Business Taskforce.

We recognise however that some issues remain and that you will be getting messages highlighting them from constituency businesses. We are of course always ready to have such problems drawn to our attention directly. There are also teams across Government whose job it is to support businesses and we wanted to make sure you were aware of how to contact them. Please do draw the following details to businesses as necessary - they will then be able to access help directly.

## GOV.UK

The best place to go for guidance about changes and new rules for doing business with the EU and for moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland is the Transition Page on [GOV.UK](#).

- Businesses can obtain a personalised list of actions they need to take by using [the Brexit checker tool](#).

Other useful and popular pages on GOV.UK include with important information and guidance:

- Information on applying for the [EU Settlement Scheme](#);
- Help and information on [applying for an EORI number](#);
- Tool to assist with applying to [continue to live in the UK](#);
- Travel requirements for [visiting Europe from 01 January 2021](#).

## Helplines

- For general queries, including on Brexit, businesses can call [Business Support helplines](#) in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- For queries on specific topics, we have a number of [helplines](#) to help businesses on a range of areas such as customs procedures or tariffs.
- The [EU Transition Trader and Industry Forum](#) helps businesses who trade over the border and the [Transition Period online enquiry service](#) helps with trade and investment queries.

## Webinars and Videos

- The GOV.UK webinars [webpage](#) links to numerous webinars. Businesses can also register for video explainers on various topics, including importing and exporting, trade and data.
- Businesses can email the Cabinet Office ([businesspartnerships@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:businesspartnerships@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)) to receive its UK Transition Business Bulletin which signposts to the latest webinars and videos.
- Businesses can also [sign up](#) to bulletins produced by the Department for Business, Energy, Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the latest information for employers and businesses on coronavirus.

## Northern Ireland

- The free-to-use [Trader Support Service](#) provides end-to-end support for businesses engaged in new processes under the Northern Ireland Protocol.
- The [Movement Assistance Scheme](#) means traders do not need to pay certification costs for moving agri-food goods from GB-NI, with the costs incurred by those certifying the products reimbursed by the government up to a set amount. The scheme also includes a dedicated helpline for general enquiries and together these measures are making it easier to move agri-food goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.
- Comprehensive business guidance on moving all different kinds of goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland is set out on gov.uk on this [collections page](#).

We also attach fuller information on the support and guidance available to businesses in your constituency. In addition to this information, your local business and other communities may also be interested in the Transition campaign's [partner resource collection](#) for products and assets to help raise awareness of the required changes. Additionally, we have also attached a breakdown of responsibilities by department for correspondence relating to UK-EU customs and trade post-transition.

Finally, we wanted to highlight the fact that the Government has provided a range of financial support to businesses during this period including more than £200bn of economic support since March as part of our response to Covid-19 and a new [£20m SME Brexit Support fund](#) to help SMEs adjust to new customs, rules of origin, and VAT rules when trading with the EU. Further guidance on this new fund can be found [here](#).

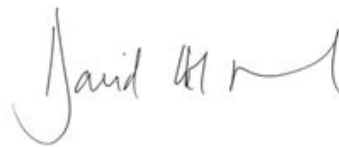
We have also provided dedicated support packages to traders moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, including a new and unprecedented Trader Support Service, backed by funding of more than £200m, providing end-to-end support for businesses engaged in new processes under the Protocol, and the agri-food Movement Assistance Scheme, which supports traders by covering the costs of certification for agri-food products.

We hope this information proves useful to you and businesses in your constituency.

**With best wishes**



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
**Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**  
**and Minister for the Cabinet Office**



**Lord Frost CMG**  
**Minister of State, Cabinet Office**