

## **UK is one step closer to being granted Data Adequacy**

The [Government has welcomed](#) the European Commission's 'draft' data adequacy decisions, which recognise the UK's high data protection standards and set out that the UK should be found 'adequate'.

The draft decisions published on 19 February by the Commission will now be shared with the European Data Protection Board for a 'non-binding opinion', before being presented to EU member states for formal approval. The UK is hoping for a speedy decision, which will provide certainty for businesses.

Being granted a positive data adequacy decision under both the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Law Enforcement Directive (LED) would allow for personal data to continue to flow freely from the EU and wider EEA to the UK. The UK has already recognised the EU and EEA member states as 'adequate', as part of its commitment to establish a smooth transition for the UK's departure from the EU.

As part of the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, a time-limited 'bridging mechanism' for personal data flows was agreed, allowing personal data to continue to flow as it did before the end of the transition period for up to six months, while the EU completes the adequacy process.

## **EU granted extension to further scrutinise UK Trade Agreement**

The UK is currently only "provisionally" implementing the [EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) as the EU has requested more time to scrutinise the Agreement before ratifying.

The EU had requested an extension until 28 February, which had been granted by the UK, and a further extension has now again been requested. [In a letter](#) to the Vice President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP made clear that the UK expects the EU to satisfy its internal requirements before 30 April and would not accept an extension beyond that point.

Both parties are due to meet today (24 February) at the [Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee](#). Representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive have been invited to form part of the UK delegation and the agenda will focus on Withdrawal Agreement Implementation since the end of the transition period, Citizens' Rights and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson has acknowledged that there have been "teething problems" with trade between GB and Northern Ireland but is committed to doing everything "to ensure there is no barrier down the Irish Sea".

## Resources to support those moving goods to Northern Ireland

The Government has published a [series of videos](#) that signpost to the free-to-use Trader Support Service which provides help to traders moving goods from England, Wales or Scotland to Northern Ireland.

Those moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, are also advised to check the Government's latest [Northern Ireland Protocol guidance](#) and [Guidance on trading goods in and out of Northern Ireland](#).

The BVRLA has also published some sector-specific advice on its [EU Exit Business Advice](#) page, covering leasing vehicles for use in Northern Ireland and customs considerations for Northern Ireland. Members are encouraged to email [policy@bvrla.co.uk](mailto:policy@bvrla.co.uk) to highlight any issues that are being experienced relating to EU Exit.

## Support to understand Rules of Origin

The Government has published a [12-minute video](#) to help businesses understand the Rules of Origin. If you are a UK exporter and your EU importer wants to claim zero tariffs on your goods, there are 3 key steps to work out whether your goods comply with rules of origin:

1. Classify your good – every good has a commodity code and a list is available on gov.uk
2. Understand whether your good meets the applicable rule of origin from the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (Chapter 2 as well as Annexes ORIG-1 to ORIG-4 will be most useful). You can also use the [export checker tool](#) to find out what rule of origin applies to your exports.
3. Understand how to [demonstrate origin](#) to the customs authorities.

For help in working out whether your goods comply and how to demonstrate this to customs authorities, read the [Rules of Origin Guidance](#) on trading with the EU. You may choose to use a customs agent to help you with Rules of Origin and there is [guidance available here](#) on how to find one.

## HMRC to host import and export webinars

Two new webinars are being hosted by HMRC to support businesses who import and export.

You can [register here](#) to attend the 60-minute *Customs Import Declarations: An overview* webinar which takes place on 5 March.

[Register here](#) to attend the 60-minute *Exporting: what you need to do to keep your goods moving* webinar taking place on 2 March.

## **Guidance on moving goods between GB and France**

The Government has published a technical [2-hour webinar](#) to provide support to businesses on moving goods between Great Britain and France. [Slides are also available](#). The live webinar took place on 12 February and was hosted by Border Force, DEFRA and HMRC.

## **Guidance for businesses employing staff from overseas**

The Home Office has developed a [communications toolkit](#) including a suite of digital and print assets with information to help employers prepare for the new points-based system. Anyone coming to the UK to work will need to apply for permission in advance except Irish citizens or EU citizens eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Resources include useful factsheets as well as digital and social resources, and a dedicated [microsite](#) has also been created to support businesses.