

## Plans set out for seamless trade between UK nations

The Government has [laid out plans](#) to ensure that businesses across the whole of the UK will continue to enjoy seamless internal trade when we leave the transition period at the end of the year.

The Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy has conducted a four-week consultation on its plans for the [UK Internal Market](#), in which it sets out options to protect the flow of goods and services within the UK.

Many businesses depend on trade with the home nations more than any other partner. In Scotland, sales of produce to the rest of the UK are worth £52.1 billion per year, accounting for over 60% of all exports, more than all other nations which Scotland trades with combined. Similarly, about 50% of Northern Ireland's sales are to Great Britain and 75% of exports of Welsh goods are consumed in other parts of the UK.

From 1 January 2021, powers in at least 70 policy areas previously exercised at an EU level will flow directly to the devolved administrations in Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast for the first time. This will give the devolved administrations power over more issues than they have ever had before, without removing any of their current powers.

## Update on progress with Trade Agreements

The UK is seeking to reproduce the effects of existing EU agreements for when they no longer apply to the UK to ensure continuity of trading arrangements for UK businesses.

The UK Government has published a [list of countries and trading blocs with whom they have a signed trade agreement](#) that is expected to take effect when existing EU trade agreements no longer apply to the UK, from 1 January 2021.

There is also a [list of countries and trading blocs with who trade discussions are still underway](#) and EU trading terms are still in place.

If the UK Government does not reproduce the effects of an existing EU agreement, trade with other World Trade Organization (WTO) members will take place on [WTO terms](#) when EU trade agreements cease to apply to the UK. Find out more about [trading under WTO terms](#).

## **New rules for those taking pets abroad**

Members may want to make customers aware that should they intend to drive abroad with a pet, new rules will apply from 1 January requiring them to act now.

The UK Government has applied to the European Commission to be listed in the EU Pet Travel Scheme and is awaiting a decision. Those taking pets abroad are advised to contact their vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest advice.

The updated [Guidance on Pet Travel to Europe from 1 January](#) provides full details on what steps need to be taken should the UK not be listed in the scheme.

## **Be aware of mobile roaming charges from January**

From 1 January 2021, the guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will end. Members are advised to check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that you or any employees going overseas might incur from January.

## **Preparing for import and export requirements**

From January 2021, traders who are exporting goods to the EU will need to make export declarations and ensure they have the right certificates and licences required for entry.

In order to fulfil the import process, traders will need to:

- Have a GB Economic Operator Registration and Identification - or EORI number before moving their goods.
- Have the commodity Code of their goods – which will be needed to make a customs declaration and of course to calculate duties on an import.
- Know the customs value of their goods – the rules for which are based on the WTO valuation agreement.
- Have considered whether they are able to, and would benefit from, using any of the available simplifications or facilitations, including deferring customs declarations for standard goods.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove made a [statement in the House of Commons](#) confirming that in order to give businesses more time to adjust, border controls would be introduced in three stages up to 1 July 2021.