

News story: New customs proposals laid out by Government in new paper on future relationship with the EU

A new paper setting out proposals for a future customs relationship with the EU has been unveiled today by the Government in the first of a series of papers on the UK's future partnership with the EU.

The document highlights the UK's strong starting position and how we can build on the strong foundation through two broad approaches:

- A highly streamlined customs arrangement between the UK and the EU, with customs requirements that are as frictionless as possible. This would aim to continue some existing arrangements we have with the EU, reduce or remove barriers to trade through new arrangements, and adopt technology-based solutions to make it easier for businesses to comply with customs procedures.
- A new customs partnership with the EU by aligning our approach to the customs border in a way that removes the need for a UK-EU customs border. One potential approach would involve the UK mirroring the EU's requirements for imports from the rest of the world where the final destination is the EU.

The paper also sets out new details on an interim period with the EU. The proposed model, which would mean close association with the EU Customs union for a time-limited period, would ensure that UK businesses only have to adjust once to a new customs relationship. This would minimise disruption and offering business a smooth and orderly transition.

Secretary of State for Exiting the EU David Davis said:

The approaches we are setting out today will benefit both the EU and UK and avoid a cliff-edge for businesses and individuals on both sides.

The way we approach the movement of goods across our border will be a critical building block for our independent trade policy. An interim period would mean businesses only need to adjust once to the new regime and would allow for a smooth and orderly transition.

The UK is the EU's biggest trading partner so it is in the interest

of both sides that we reach an agreement on our future relationship. The UK starts from a strong position and we are confident we can deliver a result that is good for business here in the UK and across the EU.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond said:

Our proposals are ambitious, and rightly so. They set out arrangements that would allow UK businesses to continue to trade with their European partners in the future, while expanding their markets beyond the EU.

And in the near term they will reassure people and companies that, the day after we leave the EU, they will still be able to go about their business without disruption as we make a smooth transition to our bright future outside the EU and deliver a Brexit that works for Britain.

The leading document crucially sets out that the UK will be guided by what delivers the greatest economic advantage to the UK, and by three key objectives: to ensure trade with the EU is frictionless as possible, to avoid any form of hard-border between Ireland and Northern Ireland and to establish an independent international trade policy.

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox said:

Leaving the Customs Union will allow us to operate a fully independent trade policy in Britain's national interest which will benefit UK businesses and consumers.

We will seek a new customs arrangement that ensures that trade between the UK and the EU remains as frictionless as possible and allows us to forge new trade relationships with our partners in Europe and around the world.

As we leave the EU and establish an independent trade policy, the Government will prioritise ensuring that the UK and EU businesses and consumers can continue to trade freely with one another as part of a new free trade agreement. In 2016, UK imports and exports from the EU totalled £553 billion alone.

The paper can be found [here](#).

[News story: Making safer polio vaccines with plants](#)

The research, [published in the journal Nature Communications](#), confirms that these plant-made particles are structurally similar to poliovirus and can protect mice from infection as effectively as existing vaccines.

As large amounts of live poliovirus are needed to make current vaccines, VLP-based vaccines could provide a safer alternative for vaccine production after polio eradication.

What are VLPs?

VLPs are empty protein shells that 'mimic' the virus but lack the genetic material needed for replication. Scientists have suggested poliovirus VLPs as potential vaccine candidates because they can provoke an immune response but aren't infectious. However, their instability has long been a barrier for their use as vaccines.

In January, [NIBSC researchers published a new genetic approach to make stable poliovirus VLPs](#), which forms the basis of this new study.

Using plants to make medicines

Over the last 20 years, plants have begun to compete with bacteria, yeast, insect and mammalian cells as producers of medicines and they've recently been used to make candidate VLP-based vaccines against infectious diseases such as influenza.

For this study, researchers expressed stabilised poliovirus VLPs in plants and compared them to normal, or 'wild-type', poliovirus.

They found that plant-produced stabilised VLPs had a similar structure to wild-type poliovirus and could promote similar levels of protective proteins, known as antibodies, as an existing vaccine.

[This paper](#) suggests plants could be used to make large quantities of stable and effective poliovirus VLPs for new vaccines.

The research is a collaboration between scientists at the John Innes Centre, NIBSC, University of Oxford, Diamond Light Source and University of Leeds and funded by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

NIBSC researcher, and study author, Dr Andrew Macadam said:

Current vaccines for polio are produced from large amounts of live virus which carries a threat of accidental escape and re-introduction. As VLPs aren't infectious, making vaccines using these particles is safer and could be particularly important post-eradication.

This research shows that plants can be used to successfully make stable VLPs for vaccines. It takes us a step closer to replacing current polio vaccines, providing us with a cheap and viable option for making VLP-based vaccines.

But the possibilities of this approach could extend further than polio and we're also looking at applying these methods to develop stable VLPs for new vaccines against other viruses.

[News story: HMRC confirms country-by-country reporting format for multinationals](#)

The UK follows the country-by-country reporting requirements of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

More details can be found in this [tax information and impact note](#).

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have confirmed that the required format for country-by-country reporting will be via an XML (extensible markup language) schema, to ensure international consistency.

Find out if [you must send a country-by-country report](#).

The [International Exchange of Information Manual](#) specifically includes directions relating to:

- the content and form of presentation of the country-by-country report and notifications
 - the method for filing reports and providing notifications
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[News story: Foreign Secretary statement on Indian Independence Day 2017](#)

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

On behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of India and the British Indian community in the United Kingdom on the occasion of India's Independence Day.

The United Kingdom and India share a deep and longstanding partnership, rooted in the 1.5 million British Indian diaspora in the UK who contribute so richly to our society. Our two countries are committed to working together to promote our people's prosperity, improve global security and tackle the global challenges that we face today.

Through the 2017 UK-India Year of Culture, we have celebrated the strength of UK-India ties, from our shared history, values, culture and language. Whilst today is an opportunity to reflect on India's success over the past 70 years, it is also a chance to look ahead at a bright future for both our countries, supported by the flourishing ties between the people of India and the UK.

My best wishes to you all on this day

Further information

[News story: Animal medicines improvement notice: Nupsala Veterinary Services](#)

Details of the improvement notice issued to Nupsala Veterinary Services, Leicestershire published in August 2017.

This Notice was issued to Nupsala Veterinary Services, Burrough on the Hiill, Leicestershire, as they were advertising the product Lubravisc Vet, a product which is not authorised as a veterinary medicine in the UK. This is an offence under Regulation 4 of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

This advertising was seen on the Nupsala stand at the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons. Nupsala had previously been informed of this offence earlier this year.

The improvement required is for:

- Nupsala must provide written confirmation to the VMD that all reference to the product Lubravisc Vet has been removed from all Nupsala marketing material.