

# Government confirms plans to introduce import controls

Today, the government has confirmed plans to introduce import controls on EU goods at the border after the transition period ends on 31 December 2020.

We are leaving the EU's customs union and single market, taking back control of our borders, and beginning to strike trade deals around the world.

In a speech today by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster at a Border Delivery Group stakeholder event, he confirmed all UK exports and imports will be treated equally. This will mean traders in the EU and GB will have to submit customs declarations and be liable to goods' checks. He also confirmed that the policy easements put in place for a potential no deal exit will not be reintroduced as businesses have time to prepare.

There are a number of reasons for implementing import controls:

- to keep our borders safe and secure so we know who's coming in and how often, what they are bringing in, and why
- to ensure we treat all partners equally as we begin to negotiate our own trading arrangements with countries around the world
- to collect the right customs, VAT and excise duties
- the EU has said it will enforce checks on our goods entering the Eurozone. We will likewise enforce our own rules for goods entering the UK

Business can prepare for border controls by making sure they have an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number, and also looking into how they want to make declarations such as using a customs agent. We will ensure facilitations currently available to rest of the world traders will also be open to those trading between GB and EU.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove said:

The UK will be outside the single market and outside the customs union, so we will have to be ready for the customs procedures and regulatory checks that will inevitably follow.

As a result of that we will be in a stronger position, not just to make sure that our economy succeeds outside the European Union but that we are in a position to take advantage of new trading relationships with the rest of the world.

This morning HMRC extended the deadline for businesses to apply for customs support funding to 31 January 2021. To date, applications have been made for around £18.5 million out of a possible £26 million – meaning there is at least £7.5 million left to claim from HMRC.

This is aimed at GB/EU traders. This approach does not apply to the flow of trade between Northern Ireland and Ireland, or between Northern Ireland and GB.