Steel safeguard measures review – draft recommendation published

Press release

TRID has today (Wednesday 19 May) published its Statement of Intended Preliminary Decision which sets out its findings on the UK's steel safeguard measures.

- UK and overseas industries have seven days to review and comment on the findings before a final decision is made.
- TRID recommends former EU safeguard measures on 10 categories of steel imports be extended for three years.
- Measures on nine categories of steel imports would be revoked as there is no UK production or there has been no increase in imports found, no significant increase in imports, no serious injury, or, in one category, extension would not meet the Economic Interest Test.

The Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) of the Department for International Trade has today (Wednesday 19 May) published its Statement of Intended Preliminary Decision which sets out its findings on the UK's steel safeguard measures.

TRID reviewed 19 categories of steel imports that are covered by the existing trade remedy measures, covering 253 different products in total. TRID's report recommends that the existing trade remedy measures on imports are extended on 10 categories and revoked on nine categories.

For the 10 product categories on which TRID has recommended that the measures should be extended, it has determined that there was an import surge, that future injury to UK producers was likely to be caused if the measures were removed, and that extension meets the Economic Interest Test. TRID has determined that Tariff Rate Quotas remain the most appropriate form of measure to be applied for these categories, with imports outside the Quotas facing a tariff of 25%.

For six of the nine revoked categories, TRID found that there was no increase in imports to the UK between 2013 and 2017, meaning that the measures cannot

be extended. For the other three revoked categories, it was found that the import increase was not significant enough, or was not likely to cause injury, or that extending a measure did not meet the Economic Interest Test.

Following today's publication, there will be a seven-day period in which interested parties can comment on the report. TRID will then consider and produce a Final Determination, which will be sent to the Secretary of State for International Trade who will make the final decision on whether to uphold TRID's recommendation.

The full Statement of Intended Preliminary Decision can be found here.

Notes to Editors

- As part of its review, TRID conducted an Economic Interest Test to consider:
  - the damage that the imported steel products are causing to UK producers of those goods
  - the economic significance of affected industries and consumers in the UK and the potential impact of keeping or revoking the measure
  - the likely impact on particular geographic areas and groups in the UK
  - the likely consequences for the competitive environment and the structure of the UK market in these goods.
- TRID has recommended that the measures being retained are extended for three years.
- We reviewed 19 product categories, which contained 253 different product codes in total. The total number of product codes in our intended preliminary decision reduced by 16 codes to 237 as a result of a scope change which combined two categories. We intend to recommend that the measure is revoked on 135 product codes, and extended on 102 product codes. This represents revocation of all codes in nine product categories and extension of the application of the measure on all codes in 10 product categories with two of those categories amended (i.e. some codes are revoked).

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1. 2 June 2021

   Change of image

2. 19 May 2021

   First published.

World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK

- Initial results trialling seven vaccines expected in September to inform plans for booster programme
- Clinical trials on agenda for G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in early June which Health Secretary announces will be hosted in Oxford
- Announcements come ahead of International Clinical Trials Day (Thursday 20 May 2021)

Thousands of volunteers will receive a booster COVID-19 vaccine in a new clinical trial launching today, Health Secretary Matt Hancock has announced.

The Cov-Boost study, led by University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and backed by £19.3 million of government funding through the Vaccines Taskforce, will trial seven vaccines and will be the first in the world to provide vital data on the impact of a third dose on patients' immune responses.

It will give scientists from around the globe and the experts behind the UK's COVID-19 vaccination programme a better idea of the impact of a booster dose of each vaccine in protecting individuals from the virus.

The study will take place at 16 NIHR-supported sites across England, and also within Health and Care Research Wales and NHS Research Scotland sites. It will include a total of 2,886 patients and participants are to begin being vaccinated from early June.

All participants will be monitored throughout the study for any side effects and will have bloods taken to measure their immune responses at days 28, 84, 308 and 365, with a small number having additional blood tests at other times. All sites will have an electronic diary for all participants that will send alerts to the team in real time if needed and a 24-hour emergency phone to a doctor on the study, who can provide further clinical advice.

The initial findings, expected in September, will help inform decisions by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on plans for a booster programme from autumn this year, ensuring the country's most vulnerable are given the strongest possible protection over the winter period.

The Health Secretary has also announced that the 2021 G7 Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in-person at Oxford University on 3-4 June. As part of the UK's G7 Presidency, we are bringing together health leaders from the world's leading democracies to agree life-saving action in the critical areas of clinical trials, global health security, antimicrobial resistance, and digital health to help protect us all from future pandemics.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, said:

> The UK vaccination programme has been a phenomenal national effort, with seven in 10 UK adults now having had their first COVID-19 jab. It is vital that we continue to support the world-renowned British research sector that has contributed to its success.
>
> We will do everything we can to future-proof this country from pandemics and other threats to our health security, and the data from this world-first clinical trial will help shape the plans for our booster programme later this year.
>
> I urge everyone who has had both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and is eligible, to sign up for this study and play a part in protecting the most vulnerable people in this country and around the world for months and years to come.

The trial will look at seven different COVID-19 vaccines as potential boosters, given at least 10 to 12 weeks after a second dose as part of the ongoing vaccination programme. One booster will be provided to each volunteer and could be a different brand to the one they were originally vaccinated with.

Vaccines being trialled include Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, Valneva, Janssen and Curevac, as well as a control group. The trial has received ethics approval by the NHS Research Ethics Committee, as well as approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

The study will open for applications from volunteers shortly via the study's website and will be recruiting participants through the NHS COVID-19 Vaccine Research Registry.

Participants will be adults aged 30 years or older as these will have been those immunised early on in the vaccination programme – for example, adults aged 75 and over or health and care workers.

The trial was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and funded by the Vaccine Taskforce, with the study being undertaken by the Southampton team at sites across the UK as part of the National Immunisation Schedule Evaluation Consortium (NISEC).

The team leading the trial is committed to including participants from a wide variety of backgrounds, and individuals from ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply to take part.

Chief Investigator and Director of NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility Professor Saul Faust said:

> This trial will give the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation the important data to inform their recommendations of how to protect the population against any future wave.

> It is fantastic that so many people across the country have taken part in vaccine trials up to now so that we can be in a position to study the effects of boosters, and we hope that as many people as possible over the age of 30 who received their first dose early in the NHS programme will be able to take part.

The UK's vaccination programme continues at record pace, with over 57.8 million vaccinations administered in total – 36.9 million first doses, which amounts to seven in 10 UK adults being given one jab – and 20.8 million second doses, which gives people even stronger protection.

The government is preparing for a booster programme based on clinical need and will publish further details in due course. The final policy will be informed by advice from the JCVI and take into account the results of clinical trials.

Minister for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Nadhim Zahawi said:

> With over 57 million vaccines administered since the beginning of the rollout, the programme continues its fantastic trajectory.
>
> Having taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial myself, I would encourage everyone eligible to volunteer – whatever your religion, ethnicity or background, it's a fantastic opportunity to get involved with such an historic initiative.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of the ComCov clinical trial, which aims to determine the effects of using different vaccines for the first and second dose – for example, using Oxford/AstraZeneca's vaccine for the first dose, followed by Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine for the second.

Initial results from this trial have shown that mixing the doses slightly increases the frequency of mild-to-moderate symptoms following vaccination, but there were no serious outcomes. Further results from this clinical trial – including on the immune response in people who have two different vaccine doses – are expected over the coming months.

Professor Andrew Ustianowski, National Clinical Lead for the UK NIHR COVID-19 Vaccine Research, Programme said:

> Throughout the pandemic, the National Institute for Health Research, the NHS and all of our research partners have helped to rollout vital studies to help us learn how to treat COVID-19 and develop effective vaccines.
>
> The Cov-Boost study marks the next step forward in our efforts of understanding how to best protect the population and inform future vaccine booster programmes.

> Since the launch of the NHS COVID-19 Vaccine Research Registry, thousands of volunteers have been recruited to key vaccine studies, and we are confident we can call upon our nearly half a million strong community to help recruitment to this important trial.

Background information

Volunteers can find out more about the study and sign up at www.covboost.org.uk and www.nhs.uk/researchcontact.

This will be a single-blind, randomised, phase II UK multi-centre study to determine reactogenicity and immunogenicity of booster vaccination against COVID-19.

The 18 sites where the trial will take place include:

- Southampton
- London (3 sites – University College Hospital, Guys and St Thomas Hospital, and Northwick Park Harrow)
- Leicester
- Bournemouth
- Portsmouth
- Wrexham (Wales)
- Bradford
- Oxford
- Glasgow
- Leeds
- Cambridge
- Birmingham
- Brighton
- Stockport
- Liverpool
- Exeter

See the initial ComCov study results

Overall, the UK has secured access to 517 million doses of 8 of the most promising COVID-19 vaccines. These are:

- Pfizer/BioNTech for 100 million doses – including the additional 60 million doses for the booster programme
- Oxford/AstraZeneca for 100 million doses
- Moderna for 17 million doses
- Janssen for 30 million doses
- Novavax for 60 million doses
- Valneva for 100 million doses
- GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur for 60 million doses
- CureVac for 50 million doses

About the National Institute for Health Research

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is the nation's largest funder of health and care research. The NIHR:

- funds, supports and delivers high-quality research that benefits the NHS, public health and social care Engages and involves patients, carers and the public in order to improve the reach, quality and impact of research
- attracts, trains and supports the best researchers to tackle the complex health and care challenges of the future
- invests in world-class infrastructure and a skilled delivery workforce to translate discoveries into improved treatments and services
- partners with other public funders, charities and industry to maximise the value of research to patients and the economy

Volunteering for COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials

People wishing to volunteer to support clinical trials can sign up for information on COVID-19 vaccine trials with the NHS COVID-19 Vaccine Research Registry, developed in partnership with NHS Digital. It is helping large numbers of people to be recruited into trials, meaning more effective vaccines for coronavirus can be found as soon as possible.

The service was commissioned as part of the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce in conjunction with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh governments.

Anyone living in the UK can sign up online to take part in the trials through the NHS, giving permission for researchers to contact you if they think you're a good fit. Once you sign up, you can withdraw at any time and request that your details be removed from the COVID-19 Vaccine Research Registry. The process takes about 5 minutes to complete.

More information can be found at NHS.UK/coronavirus

New implementation plan to deliver world-leading genomic healthcare

- Government launches implementation plan to deliver world-leading genomic healthcare to patients, improving diagnosis, treatment and prevention
- Diversity and reach of genomics set to expand through engagement and research programmes to better treat deadly diseases such as cancer

Patients across the UK will benefit from better healthcare, treatments and faster diagnosis as the government sets out how it will continue to deliver

world-leading genomic healthcare.

Genomics is the study of genetic information and can help diagnose diseases earlier and more accurately, reduce some invasive procedures and enable tailored treatments. Building on the success of the 100,000 Genomes Project, our commitment is to sequence 1 million whole genomes – 500,000 genomes in the NHS and 500,000 in UK Biobank, which will transform healthcare in the UK and create jobs. In 2018 to 2019, genomics contributed £1.9 billion to our economy.

The UK's continued international leadership makes it an attractive location for private-sector investment, helping drive the country's economic recovery as we look to build back better, and deliver the government's ambition of becoming a global life sciences hub.

Working with key partners across the genomics community, the bold new Genome UK implementation plan 2021 to 2022 published today sets out 27 commitments to deliver over the next year including 5 high-priority actions:

1. Faster diagnosis and treatment of cancer using genomics through partnership working between Genomics England and NHS England/Improvement to identify technologies that could be used to enable faster and more comprehensive genomic testing for cancer.
2. Whole genome sequencing for patients with rare diseases and cancer as part of the NHS Genomic Medicine Service. This builds on the success of the 100,000 Genomes Project, making the NHS the only healthcare system worldwide to routinely offer this life-changing test for earlier diagnosis.
3. Engage closely with different communities to ensure diverse datasets, through bespoke screening programmes. This will ensure everyone across the UK can benefit from genomic healthcare and our genomic databases are representative of our diverse population. This is essential for equitable access to new techniques, such as polygenic risk scores (PRS) which compares a person's risk to others with a different genetic makeup, and pharmacogenomics, which examines the role of the genome in the body's response to drugs.
4. Our Future Health, the UK's largest-ever research programme, will begin recruiting up to 5 million people representative of the UK population, to collect and link multiple sources of health information, helping researchers to discover new ways to detect and prevent the development of diseases. This was originally established as the Accelerating Detection of Disease challenge through £79 million of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.
5. Develop global standards and policies for sharing genomic and related health data. The National Institute for Health Research, Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust will, over the next 5 years, provide a total of £4.5 million of funding to the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health, ensuring standards are easily accessible and usable by global genomic programmes and data-sharing initiatives, placing the UK at the forefront of secure sharing of international genomic and health-related data.

Speaking in the House of Commons today, the Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

> We will transform the UK into a life sciences superpower. We'll build on the success story of our life sciences during the pandemic which has led the world in everything from vaccine development, to finding effective treatments that work, to genomic sequencing.
>
> Today we've published our Genome UK implementation plan for how we can build on this even further including our commitment to sequence 1 million whole genomes. Because genomics saves lives, and I'm determined the UK stays at the forefront of this vital new technology.
>
> If we draw on ingenuity like this, we can keep up the fight against COVID-19, and also tackle the other things that stop us living healthier lives like cancer, dementia, and heart disease.
>
> So, we're increasing UK investment in research and development bringing much more of the supply chain onshore sparing no effort to attract the brightest innovators and the best manufacturers and the benefits will be felt in Newquay, Newport, Newry and Newton Mearns.

Minister for Innovation Lord Bethell said:

> The UK has a proud history in developing genetic and genomic technologies which improve the lives of patients across the country and globally.
>
> This implementation plan demonstrates the great strides we have already made since the launch of Genome UK and outlines the actions we are taking to progress key commitments over the next year.
>
> It is vital that we continue to maintain and develop our global leadership in this field, to realise the full potential offered by genomics.

This first phase implementation plan follows on from Genome UK: the future of healthcare published in 2020, which set out a vision to create the most advanced genomic healthcare system in the world, to deliver better healthcare at lower cost.

The plan contains ambitious England-specific and UK-wide commitments, reflecting the devolved nature of healthcare while highlighting our strengths when we work together – for example, the world-leading COVID-19 genome sequencing consortium, COG-UK.

Genomics is just one example of this government's commitment to driving forwards health innovation in the UK, which will be central to our future

health resilience, the growth of our world-leading life sciences sector and improving patient care.

These commitments are important first steps to realising Genome UK's vision and ensuring everyone in the UK will benefit from genomics, by having access to predictive, preventative, and personalised healthcare.

Chris Wigley, Genomics England CEO, said:

> Since the days of Darwin, Rosalind Franklin, Crick and Watson and Fred Sanger, the UK has been at the forefront of genomic science. With this publication it's exciting to see the next chapter of that story coming to life. Our ecosystem has come together as never before through the difficult times of the pandemic – and this implementation plan will allow us to build on this collaboration between all of the world-leading genomics institutions in the UK.

Professor Dame Sue Hill, NHS England Chief Scientific Officer, said:

> The NHS is already a global leader in genomics and has introduced a range of new cutting-edge tests for people with rare diseases and cancer over the last year, despite the pandemic.
>
> Genomics can truly transform the way patient care is delivered, helping to predict and prevent disease, personalise treatments and ultimately save lives.

Welsh Government Health and Social Services Minister Eluned Morgan said:

> We have a strong focus on harnessing genomics technologies in order that we improve the health and prosperity of the people of Wales. We are proud of our fully established and accredited pathogen genomics service which has been, and continues to be, world leading in genomics pathogen sequencing and a key component of our response to COVID-19. We will continue to expand upon our pathogen sequencing service to ensure that Wales remains at the forefront of this global field.
>
> We are committed to the implementation of the ambitious and pioneering UK-wide genomics strategy and will continue to work closely across the UK to adopt a truly 4-nations approach to our delivery where possible, alongside seeking the advice and strategic direction from Genomics Partnership Wales.

Supportive quotes

Professor Charles Swanton, Cancer Research UK's chief clinician, said:

> The opportunities to apply genomics in healthcare are enormous, particularly in the detection and treatment of cancer. From diagnosing cancer much earlier, to the development and deployment of increasingly personalised medicines to treat tumours in those with early or minimal residual disease, as well as late stage cancer, genomics has the potential to make a life-saving difference.
>
> We are pleased to see the publication of the government's first Genome UK implementation plan and the commitments it makes to use genomics in improving the lives of patients with cancer. I look forward to continued collaboration through my role on the National Genomics Board, and seeing the Genome UK vision continue to become a reality in the years to come.

Tony Wood, Senior Vice President, Medicinal Science and Technology GSK, said:

> As industry leaders in applying functional genomics to improve medicine discovery and development, we welcome the publication of the Genome UK implementation plan for 2021 to 2022. The commitments in the plan, including action to develop a functional genomics initiative, will help to reinforce the important virtuous circle of genomic healthcare and research, generating new insights into the causes and mechanisms of disease and supporting the discovery of new and more successful drug targets – for the benefit of patients and the UK life sciences industry.

Nick Meade, joint interim Chief Executive of Genetic Alliance and Director of Policy, said:

> The 100,000 Genomes Project has demonstrated the enormous benefits that genomic diagnosis can bring to people affected by rare disease. We are therefore especially pleased to see the announcement in the Genome UK implementation plan that the NHS Genomic Medicine Service is now rolling out whole genome sequencing to all patients with a rare disease as part of routine care. We agree with the assessment in the Plan – this is a transformational milestone for rare disease patients – and we look forward to engaging with future Genome UK implementation.

Hugh Whittall, Director of Nuffield Council on Bioethics, said:

> It is good to see that a commitment to ethical consideration is fully integrated into the implementation plan for the Genome UK strategy. Engagement with communities and early discussion of ethical challenges will be vital to the successful implementation of genomics in healthcare.

Background information

Genome UK: 2021 to 2022 implementation plan

Genome UK runs over 10 years and some of its 45 commitments are long term and will be delivered through cumulative action over the coming years. Therefore, in the first phase plan, the focus has been on defining clear commitments that will be progressed in 2021 to 2022, through confirmed funding sources.

Future iterations of this plan will be aligned with the Spending Review cycles and will be developed closely with partners to ensure the objectives are delivered and value for money is provided.

This iteration of the implementation plan is largely England-focused, but some aspects are UK-wide – for example, the world-leading research programme, COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium (COG-UK). The Office for Life Sciences will continue to work with the devolved administrations, via the National Genomics Board and other venues, to ensure continued close collaboration on the implementation of Genome UK.

It is vitally important to build and maintain trustworthiness by involving patients, the public and the NHS workforce in developing and implementing genomic healthcare, including ethical and privacy considerations. Several actions set out in the implementation plan directly support this.

Taskforce provides vital help for Scottish seafood exporters

Press release

Seventh meeting between key fishing industry figures and government helps to cut EU red tape

Progress is being made to improve export systems for Scottish seafood, a

meeting between industry and government has heard.

Discussions took place during the seventh meeting of the Scottish seafood exports taskforce, which brings together key industry figures from the fishing industry with officials and senior politicians from the UK Government and Scottish Government.

UK Government Minister for Scotland David Duguid chaired the meeting and said the taskforce had tackled problems which affected the seafood sector since Britain's exit from the EU, many relating to paperwork now required by the EU.

Following the meeting, Minister Duguid said:

> This taskforce has been unusual as it has brought together industry experts from the catching, processing, exporting and aquaculture sectors as well as three ministers from the UK Government and the Scottish Government.
>
> Rapid progress has been made in a variety of areas through this taskforce. In particular, we have considerably cut the amount of time staff spend filling in details on Export Health Certificates, helping speed time-critical exports of our world-class seafood.
>
> Although the taskforce has a fixed lifespan, we are looking at how we can continue this important dialogue.
>
> We want to maintain close contacts, though we appreciate people in the industry are busy. I am confident we can reach accord on ongoing discussions as we seek to maximise the opportunities for our key seafood sector.

The taskforce, which grew from extensive consultation with the industry throughout Britain's EU transition period and after our exit on 1 January, will meet for one final time in the coming weeks.

Further information

- The Scottish Seafood Exports Taskforce, hosted by the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, emerged from ongoing consultation with the seafood and aquaculture industry. While background work takes place more frequently, the taskforce convenes formally fortnightly.

- The remit is to be an overarching body delivering action on medium to long-term issues for the industry, and to complement Government engagement with the sector with the aim of increasing confidence in the seafood and aquaculture supply chains.

- The taskforce brings together UK Government officials and ministers with

key industry figures. The Scottish Government is represented at official and ministerial levels.

- The taskforce has a core membership drawn from the catching, processing, exporting and aquaculture sections of industry and can invite industry experts and specialists to join on an ad hoc basis.

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Ministers reappoint members of the Police and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Bodies

News story

Ministers have approved reappointments to the Police Remuneration Review Body and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body.

Ministers have approved the following reappointments to the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body (NCARRB): Monojit Chatterji, Patrick McCartan CBE, Trevor Reaney CBE, Andy Bliss QPM and Richard Childs QPM.

All have been reappointed as members for a second term of 2 years and 9 months, with effect from 17 December 2021 until 16 September 2024.

The PRRB makes independent recommendations concerning the pay, allowances and conditions of police officers to the Home Secretary and the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice.

The NCARRB makes independent recommendations to the government on the pay and

allowances of NCA officers designated with operational powers.

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