

Investigating EU anti-dumping duties on two steel products

News story

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The Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) has today opened two new investigations into existing European Union anti-dumping duties to determine if they are fit for purpose in the UK.

TRID, which will shortly become an arms-length body of the Department of International Trade, will undertake transition reviews into existing duties on certain Cold Rolled Flat Steel products from China and Russia as well as high fatigue performance iron or steel concrete reinforcing bars and rods (sometimes referred to as HFP Rebars) from China.

The reviews will consider whether the duties are needed to offset dumping of Cold Rolled Flat Steel and HFP Rebar in the UK and whether UK industry would be damaged if the duties were no longer applied. Chief Executive of TRID Oliver Griffiths said:

“The initiation of these two new investigations means we now have 11 active transition reviews, with more to come. In every case our focus is on defending UK economic interests against unfair international trade practices.”

For both Cold Rolled Flat Steel and HFP Rebar, the investigations will cover 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. In order to assess injury, TRID will examine the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021.

TRID will shortly become an independent arms length body of the Department of International Trade as the [Trade Bill has now become law](#).

[View further information on our current Transition Reviews](#), including the notices of initiation for both Cold Rolled Flat Steel and HFP Rebar.

Note to editors:

- Anti-dumping duties allow a country or union to take action against goods sold at less than their normal value, defined as the price for 'like goods' sold in the exporter's home market.
- Cold Rolled Flat Steel is used in the manufacture of parts for the automotive industry, construction components and domestic appliances, as well as other goods. The products under investigation include:
 - Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, or other alloy steel but excluding of stainless steel, of all widths, cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated and not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced).
 - HFP Rebar, also known as reinforcement steel and reinforcing steel, is typically used to reinforce concrete and masonry structures to strengthen and hold the concrete in tension

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[Sir Robbie Gibb appointed as British Broadcasting Corporation Board Member for England](#)

News story

Sir Robbie Gibb has been appointed to the Board of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as the England Nation Member for a term of three years from 7th May 2021 to 6th May 2024. Under the terms of the BBC Royal Charter, appointment of the BBC Chair and Nation Board Members is made by HM The Queen, on recommendation from Ministers.



Sir Robbie Gibb had a long career as a broadcast journalist in BBC News – he was head of BBC Westminster and Editor of Live Political Programmes, as well

as Deputy Editor of BBC Two's Newsnight. He left the BBC in 2017 to become Director of Communications at No10 Downing Street, stepping down in 2019. He also previously worked as an Editorial Advisor to GB News, until October 2020. Sir Robbie now works as a senior communications adviser at Kekst CNC and is a Director of the Jewish Chronicle newspaper.

The base fee for all BBC non-executive directors is £33,000 per annum. A committee chair fee of £5,000 is paid on top of the base fee for chairing one of the permanent committees of the Board. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Sir Robbie Gibb declared that between 2017 and 2019 he was Director of Communications at No10 Downing Street.

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[Grenfell Tower site update: summary from 1 April 2021 online meeting](#)

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[Maximum prison sentence for animal cruelty raised to five years](#)

- Courts able to enforce tougher penalties for the most heinous animal cruelty crimes
- Maximum prison sentences extended to five years
- Handler of Police dog Finn – who was stabbed while pursuing a suspect – welcomes the news

Tougher prison sentences for animal cruelty will come into force this summer after the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill received Royal Assent today. This means that the maximum prison sentence for animal cruelty will be raised from six months to five years from 29 June 2021.

The new maximum penalty will enable courts to take a firmer approach to cases such as dog fighting, abuse of puppies and kittens, illegally cropping a dog's ears and gross neglect of farm animals. As well as a prison sentence, offenders can also receive an unlimited fine.

The more stringent sentences will be some of the toughest in Europe. The Act will help ensure courts are able to enforce extended penalties for those who cruelly mistreat any animal, sending a clear message that animal cruelty will not be tolerated.

A public consultation in 2017 received over 9,000 responses and showed strong public support for proposals on tougher sentences. The measure is also widely supported by animal welfare groups including the RSPCA and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. The Private Members Bill was introduced by Chris Loder MP in February 2020 and with the full support of the Government has now passed into law.

New legislation to protect service animals, known as ['Finn's Law'](#), came into force in June 2019 and prevents those who attack or injure service animals from claiming self-defence. The law is named after Finn, a police dog who was stabbed whilst pursuing a suspect with his handler PC David Wardell. Finn sustained serious stab wounds to the chest and head, but only criminal damage charges could be brought against his attacker.

The Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act, coupled with 'Finn's Law', ensures that those who harm either service or any other animals are punished accordingly.

PC David Wardell, Finn the police dog's handler, said:

I started this journey four-and-a-half years ago to right a wrong, to ensure that our amazing service animals had the protection they deserved whilst serving our communities.

I am absolutely over the moon that today sees the final piece of the #FinnsLaw project put into place with a new five-year maximum sentence for those who attack our service animals, or who commit cruelty or neglect upon any of this nation's animals.

Chris Sherwood, RSPCA Chief Executive, said:

This law is a huge step forward for animal welfare in the UK and we're delighted that justice will now be served for animals.

Tougher sentences will act as a stronger deterrent to potential animal abusers and will help us in our aim to stamp out animal

cruelty once and for all.

The new sentences will be available for the courts to use from 29 June 2021 onwards.

[Milestone for UK financial services as Bill receives Royal Assent](#)

News story

The UK has taken an important first step in shaping its own financial services regulation outside the EU as the Financial Services Bill received Royal Assent today (29 April 2021).



- the Financial Services Bill has received Royal Assent and is now law
- represents major milestone in shaping a regulatory framework for UK financial services outside of the EU
- enhances competitiveness of the sector and ensures it continues to deliver for UK consumers and businesses

The Bill – which is now an Act – will ensure the UK remains an open and dynamic financial centre, with the highest regulatory standards, and protect people across the UK as they use financial services.

It represents a further step in delivering the Government’s vision for a more open, technologically advanced and greener industry that serves the communities and people of this country.

John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said:

For the first time in decades, the UK has full control of its own financial services regulation. This Act will protect people who rely on financial services day-to-day and boost the competitiveness

of our dynamic global financial centre. It marks a major milestone in our plans to develop a regulatory regime that works for the UK and helps us seize new opportunities in the global economy.

Measures in the Act will:

- enhance the UK's world-leading prudential standards and promote financial stability by enabling the implementation of the remaining Basel III standards and a new prudential regime for investment firms, and giving the Financial Conduct Authority the powers it needs to oversee an orderly transition away from the LIBOR benchmark
- promote openness between the UK and international markets by simplifying the process to market overseas investment funds in the UK and delivering a Ministerial commitment to provide long-term access between the UK and Gibraltar for financial services firms
- maintain an effective financial services regulatory framework and sound capital markets with a number of smaller measures, including measures to improve the functioning of the Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Investment Products Regulation and increase penalties for market abuse
- protect consumers who use a range of financial services, by bringing interest-free buy-now-pay-later products into regulation, and improving access to cash by making it easier for retailers of all sizes to offer cashback without a purchase

Notes to editors

- the Financial Services Act can be read in full [here](#)

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