

# [EU Exit guidance for agri-food stakeholders from Defra](#)

## **Background**

As part of preparations for exiting the EU, Defra are issuing and collating guidance to ensure that businesses are aware of forthcoming changes and ready for Brexit. The guidance includes events, webinars and documents describing steps that agri-food business need to undertake to be ready.

## **Events and webinars**

### **Brexit Business Readiness Events**

The Government is arranging [Brexit Business Readiness Events](#) across the UK to help you prepare, starting Monday 16 September. Take part in a free event in your area to meet government advisers and to find out what actions your business needs to take to prepare.

The events will combine a keynote address, interactive support, advice stands and in-depth sessions led by subject matter experts. They will provide you with specific business-focused advice and help. [Register to attend an event](#)

### **Department for International Trade (DIT): “Get ready for Brexit” business-facing workshops**

As part of ongoing support for businesses, the Department for International Trade are running a series of events to help exporters to get ready for Brexit on 31 October. These events will be particularly useful for businesses who are exporting to the EU.

You’ll leave the event with a personalised action plan to prepare your business for Brexit. DIT will talk about impact to supply chains, changes to regulations and contracts, where to find tariff information, and what you might need to speak to customers and employees about, among a range of other topics.

[See dates, locations and sign up – limited registration place available.](#)

### **HMRC: “Getting ready for Brexit” webinars**

HMRC are running a number of webinars for UK businesses involved in the movement of goods between the EU and the UK. Find out what you need to know to keep importing and exporting by [signing up for a webinar](#).

# **New and updated guidance**

## **Preparing hauliers and commercial drivers for Brexit**

This week, the Department for Transport launched a [new campaign](#) to help hauliers and commercial drivers get ready for Brexit and ensure they have what they need from traders to get through border customs smoothly.

Hauliers and commercial drivers should make sure they have the correct documentation to travel to, from or through the EU when the UK leaves the EU.

Read the [handbook](#) for more information (published 9 September).

## **EORI mythbuster**

An Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number is a unique customs ID for businesses.

To help you get ready for Brexit, HMRC have published an [EORI mythbuster](#) (published 9 September) which dispels common misconceptions about EORI numbers. We also have resources to help you prepare for [importing](#) and [exporting](#) after Brexit.

## **Trade continuity agreement with six African nations**

On Tuesday, 10 September, the UK agreed trade continuity with six African nations. This Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique (SACU+M) will allow business to keep trading freely after Brexit.

Total trade in agri-food between the UK and SACU+M countries was £1.02 billion in 2018 (Note: 2018 data is subject to revision). The UK-SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement will be subject to final checks before it is formally signed.

Read the full [press release](#) and find out which [other trade agreements](#) will be in place after Brexit (updated 12 September).

In addition, the details of the trade [continuity agreement between the UK and South Korea](#) have been published (updated 11 September).

## **UK employers sending workers to the EU, EEA or Switzerland**

If your employee is working in the EU, EEA or Switzerland and has a UK-issued A1/E101 form, they will remain subject to UK legislation for the duration of the period shown on the form. However, if the date of their form goes beyond 31 October, please contact the relevant EU, EEA or Swiss authority to confirm whether your employee needs to start paying social security contributions in that country from that date, as well as National Insurance contributions in the UK.

[Find out how to do this](#) (published 4 April).

## News and resources

### Food and drink showcase dropbox with shareable resources

[Click here](https://showcase.dropbox.com/s/The-food-and-drink-sector-preparing-for-Brexit-3AcMHYJ8ofCGpw3EobAIm) or copy this link into a compatible browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari) to view the new Food and Drink sector showcase dropbox: <https://showcase.dropbox.com/s/The-food-and-drink-sector-preparing-for-Brexit-3AcMHYJ8ofCGpw3EobAIm>.

You are encouraged to download these assets for use on your own channels.

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## [Housing Secretary unveils green housing revolution](#)

- New green standard for all new build homes – cutting carbon emissions for generations to come
- Ambitious revamp of planning rules to create a simpler system that works for all
- First-ever government design manual to promote the building of beautiful new homes

A new green standard for new build homes will bring an environmental revolution to home building – tackling climate change while keeping household bills low.

Unveiled by the Housing Secretary, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, the Future Homes Standard will see polluting fossil fuel heating systems such as gas boilers banned from new homes by 2025 and replaced with the latest generation of clean technology – such as air source heat pumps and cutting-edge solar panels.

Ministers will also consult on a new blueprint to overhaul the planning system in order to create a simpler, fairer system that works for everyone – from home owners to small and medium businesses, local communities to housing developers.

The government has also announced plans for a new national design code that will ensure developers build beautiful, well designed homes that people are proud to live in.

In the coming months, every single local authority across the country will be expected to produce their own design guide which reflects their unique setting, character and history, while meeting the expected national standard.

Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

Building new homes isn't just about bricks and mortar, I want to ensure everyone – including developers – do their bit to protect the environment and give the next generation beautiful, environmentally friendly homes that local communities can support.

That's why I am requiring carbon emissions are cut by up to 80% from 2025 for all new homes and have published a National Design Guide, setting out simply what we expect from new development.

We are also reforming the planning system making it faster and more efficient for everyone, from households to large developers, alongside giving families greater freedom to extend their homes to meet their changing needs.

## **Future Homes Standard**

The government has launched a [consultation](#) on stronger building regulations that will pave the way for the Future Homes Standard.

The 2020 changes aim to improve the environment by cutting carbon emissions in new homes by almost a third, while keeping bills low.

Using new technologies such as air source heat pumps and the latest generation of solar panels, developers will need to ensure they are doing their bit to tackle the threat of climate change.

Views are being sought on how changes to building regulations can drive down the carbon footprint of homes built after 2025 – including changes to the ventilation and efficiency requirements as well as the role of councils in getting the best energy standards from developers. The consultation will run until January 2020.

Homeowners could potentially save on their energy bills as developments in the fabric of buildings, such as wall insulation and heating, help drive down the cost of keeping homes warm.

## **Accelerated planning green paper**

The government has also confirmed proposals to speed up the planning system, including the potential for more fees to be refunded if councils take too long to decide on specific planning applications.

The move will benefit all planning applicants, from housing developers to individual householders seeking to extend or modify their own home, as it ensures councils work at pace to decide proposals.

Local residents will no longer have to contend with a complicated and outdated planning system, but a more user-friendly approach designed to simplify the process. Small developers will similarly benefit from the simplification of guidance, with the introduction of a new tiered planning system.

Application fees will also be reviewed to ensure council planning departments are properly resourced, providing more qualified planners to process applications for new homes and other proposals.

The accelerated planning green paper will be published in November 2019. Government has also set out its ambition to reduce planning conditions by a third, and will take forward proposals to allow homes to be built above existing properties as well as seeking views on demolishing old commercial buildings for new housing, revitalising high streets in the process.

## **Design quality**

The first-ever government-backed National Model Design Code will be published in the New Year, and will set out a clear model for promoting a better design and style of homes across the country, shaped by what local people want.

The government has been clear that new builds must fit into existing communities, which means they are more likely to be welcomed by residents and provide places people will love to call home.

A new [National Design Guide](#) has also been published today, setting out a blueprint for how local authorities can achieve quality and great design, and recommends what developers need to deliver to help win the support of communities – ensuring new homes are built quicker and better.

The document also asks councils to prepare and implement their own design codes, in line with the national standard, which can reflect their unique setting and character.

## **Pocket parks**

Reflecting on the benefits that parks and green spaces bring to local life, the government has confirmed further new funding for another round of the pocket parks programme, helping communities transform unloved, neglected or derelict urban areas into new green spaces.

Reimagined spaces will be used for everything from children's play areas, to vegetable patches and community events, benefiting the mental and physical health of people who use them.

Funded projects will be led by community groups, in partnership with local authorities, to refurbish parks and encourage community activities.

This is part of the government's ambition to ensure that communities have a real sense of identity and place, and that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy green spaces nearby.

## **Further information**

## **Future Homes Standard**

The Future Homes Standard will set minimum environmental standards for all new housing, including a commitment to removing traditional fossil fuel heating systems from 2025.

A further consultation on the Future Homes Standard will follow in the coming months, proposing changes to the energy efficiency standards for non-domestic buildings and for building work to existing homes and non-domestic buildings; and on preventing overheating in buildings.

## **Pocket parks**

An additional £1.35 million has been made available for local communities.

It follows an initial £3.7 million fund was created for new pocket parks and to allow the refurbishment of existing parks. Winners were announced in March 2019 with over 150 communities right across the country receiving funding.

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## **HMRC Interim Chief Executive appointment confirmed**

We are pleased to confirm today, 1 October, that current Deputy Chief Executive [Jim Harra](#) has been confirmed as HMRC's Interim Chief Executive with immediate effect.

Jim will remain as Interim Chief Executive until a permanent appointment is made, and has also been appointed Interim Accounting Officer.

Having [announced his departure in July 2019](#), Sir Jonathan Thompson officially left HMRC on Monday 30 September to take up a new role as Chief Executive of the Financial Reporting Council.

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## **Brexit readiness fund extended to help businesses to prepare**

- Up to an additional £5 million is being made available to support trade associations and other business organisations in helping businesses prepare for Brexit
- funds will support business representative organisations in working with

businesses across the UK to understand the steps they should now take to be ready for 31 October 2019

- business organisations will have extra time to apply for funding

Additional funding is being made available to business organisations and trade associations throughout the UK, to support events, training and the production of advice packs to assist businesses in making sure they are fully prepared for Brexit on 31 October 2019.

Up to an extra £5 million is being made available through the Business Readiness Fund – taking the total up to £15 million.

The deadline for applications is being extended by a week, to Monday 7 October.

Activities funded by the grants must be open to both members and non-members, and to businesses large and small preparing for Brexit on 31 October. This will ensure all businesses will benefit and can be reassured that they are fully ready, from major British producers to the smallest tech startups and entrepreneurs. There will be no barriers, such as affordability of membership.

Applications for grants are being administered through [a dedicated website](#). Funding will have to be used on activities to be completed ahead of 31 October 2019 in order to ensure they are focused on Brexit preparations and that our businesses are fully prepared for Brexit day.

The fund will be open to business organisations, trade associations, chambers of commerce, chartered institutes and other professional membership bodies with a significant membership.

Applications are invited for practical advice and support, including (but not limited to): advice packs; information campaigns; webinars; podcasts; events or training workshops.

Activities supported by the fund must:

- be delivered in their entirety by 31 October 2019
- be additional to those activities already in delivery or planned to be delivered
- be made available to all businesses in the sector or geographical area and cannot be restricted to an organisation's members or subscribers
- be free (non-chargeable) to businesses
- not create a competitive advantage to certain businesses
- proposed initiatives will be required to deliver their intended impact by 31 October 2019, and this will be subject to government scrutiny

The funding forms part of the £108 million recently announced by HM Treasury to promote and support businesses in ensuring they are ready for Brexit, including a national programme of business readiness and helping exporters to prepare for, and capitalise on, new opportunities.

The minimum bid size remains £25,000, with consortia welcome to apply.

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## [New British Ambassador presents his credentials to the President of Lithuania](#)

Earlier today, Mr Brian Olley presented his credentials as Her Majesty's Ambassador (HMA) to the Republic of Lithuania to His Excellency the President of Lithuania, Mr Gitanas Nausėda.

After the ceremony, the Ambassador said:

I am hugely excited and honoured to be starting my tenure in Lithuania. I look forward to strengthening still further the United Kingdom's links with Lithuania across a wide range of issues including in cultural, economic, political and defence areas.

H.E Brian Olley joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2002. Prior to his arrival in Lithuania he was a Director in Lloyds Commercial Bank in the City of London from 2017 to 2019. He was previously the British High Commissioner to Cameroon and non-resident British Ambassador to Chad, Gabon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea from 2013 to 2017.

His FCO career has covered a wide range of roles including working in New York at the United Nations, Afghanistan, Cyprus and Finland. Mr Olley started his career in Her Majesty's Forces where he served in Hong Kong, Nepal, Germany, Canada and the UK.

When presenting his Letters of Credence to His Excellency the President, the Ambassador reaffirmed the UK's unwavering friendship and support for Lithuania.