



# ***Borders Bulletin***

Dear Stakeholder,

This bulletin provides the latest news from the Government relating to UK borders.

Please share these updates with your clients, customers and members and feel free to highlight content on your communications channels.

For more information, go to [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

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## **Simpler customs measures for traders announced at Budget**

A package of measures to streamline and simplify customs processes for businesses has been announced by the government.

The changes, announced at the Spring Budget, reflect views from traders and the border industry gathered through the 2022 [Call for Evidence](#) on long term customs policy, and go further in proposing new areas for reforming the customs system.

The proposals include giving traders more time to submit declarations after crossing the border, streamlining customs and excise authorisations, and consulting on voluntary standards for the customs intermediary sector.

Further details can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) import restrictions: Argentina

The following restrictions apply to imports into Great Britain from Argentina for animals slaughtered on or after 28 February 2023:

- Imports of poultry, ratite and wild game bird meat are suspended.
- Meat products of poultry and farmed feathered game must be heat treated to 70°C throughout the meat (heat treatment 'D'). Note that the requirement for heat treatment 'D' already applies to wild game birds.

This is due to the confirmation of an HPAI outbreak on 28 February 2023 at a commercial poultry farm in Argentina. These restrictions will remain in place until Argentina is recognised by the UK as disease free for HPAI. Further information can be found at: [Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#). For updated import information on the affected products, please visit: [Exporting to Great Britain: approved countries for animals and animal products](#).

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## National Food and Drink Summit 2023

Defra's National Food and Drink Summit 2023 took place at the Oval in London on Thursday 9 March. Defra would like to pass on their thanks to all who attended, led sessions, and participated in the events. They hope you found it to be an excellent opportunity to network with like minded SMEs and consider the next steps you want to take to grow your business. Highlights of the day included the opportunity for businesses to meet with a buyer from a major retailer, workshops covering routes to market, resilience and finance, skills, exports and innovation, the launch of the Food & Drink Federation's [Innovation Gateway](#) and the release of a new Defra "[Routes to Retail](#)" guide, which has been produced in conjunction with SALSA and Ocado. Further resources from the event will be shared by Defra in the coming weeks.

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# Food and Drink Sector Council Membership

Defra are seeking expressions of interest for membership of the Food and Drink Sector Council (FDSC). The FDSC brings together senior business leaders from across the agri-food chain to work with Government to address strategic issues facing the sector and to take action to maximise opportunities. The FDSC is entering a new phase and is resetting its work programme. The FDSC has agreed its priorities and is currently scoping what that work will be, so now is an exciting time to get involved.

The FDSC is co-chaired by industry and Government - Tim J Smith CBE for industry, with Mark Spencer, Minister of State for Food at Defra. The co-chairs want to add new voices to the Council, increase business representation and fill gaps, by appointing new members to represent the following sectors:

- Agriculture
- Consumers
- Finance / banking (investment in the sector)
- Food and Drink Manufacturing
- Primary Processing
- Public sector food
- Retail

Defra would be grateful if you would promote these opportunities through your networks. FDSC members are senior business leaders (CEO and equivalent) appointed for their standing in the sector, to represent their sector. The role of members is to:

- Represent their sector, from their individual perspectives.
- Contribute to and drive forward the Council's work programme.
- Make constructive and honest contributions in Council discussions.
- Challenge each other and Government.
- Champion the Council through their networks.
- Understand the strategic context and be frank about opportunities and risks.
- Be able to allocate sufficient time and resources to meet the expectations of the role.

Application is via CV to [fdsc@defra.gov.uk](mailto:fdsc@defra.gov.uk) by midday on **Monday 27 March**. Tenure is for 2 years, with the option to renew once. Full details are available at : [Advert for FDSC membership](#).

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## Consultation Outcome: Tariff quota administration for garlic imported from China

On 3 March, Defra published the Government Response to the consultation on the administration of the tariff rate quota for garlic imported from China. The government's response, including a summary of the responses and the decision, can be found [here](#).

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## Register for the CITIES event on 28th March 2023

Do you buy cacti, orchids or snowdrop bulbs from outside of Great Britain?

CITES is the international convention covering the trade in endangered species, and many commonly traded plants come under its umbrella – whether artificially propagated or not. The Horticultural Trade Association (HTA) are hosting a CITES event in conjunction with APHA, DEFRA and Border Force on 28 March at 10am which will cover the basics of importing CITES species, what paperwork you need, what happens at the border and what the future holds for the permit system. The event is open to all, including your EU based suppliers and agents, and will be held on Microsoft Teams.

You can email [policy@hta.org.uk](mailto:policy@hta.org.uk) to register your interest and receive an invite.

Further information on CITES can be found on the Plant Health Portal here <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/imports/imports-from-the-eu/cites-guidance/>

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## Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT)

Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) was introduced on 1st April 2022. If you manufacture or import 10 or more tonnes of plastic packaging within a 12-month period you must [register for PPT on GOV.UK](#), even if your packaging contains **30% or more** recycled plastic.

PPT also applies to plastic packaging that is imported already filled with goods – but you only need to account for the weight of the plastic packaging towards the 10-tonne threshold.

If you're liable to register or have already registered, from 1 April 2023 you must submit your PPT return and pay any tax due by 28 April 2023.

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# Helpline numbers

Here is the list of helplines you may find useful. We have added hyperlinks that will take you to pages that provide extra information such as the opening hours for the helpline all of which have sufficient capacity to support businesses.

- [Export support service](#)
- HMRC Customs & International Trade Helpline - 0300 200 3700
- [HMRC Imports and Exports General Enquiries](#) (including GVMS) - 0300 322 9434
- [New Computerised Transit System](#) - 0300 322 7095
- [DVLA Contact Centre](#) - 0300 790 6802
- DVSA:
  - [Vehicle Operator Licensing Enquiries](#) - 0300 123 9000
  - [International Road Haulage Permits](#) - 0330 678 1117
- [The Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) - 0121 345 1201
- [MHRA Customer Service Centre](#) - 020 3080 6000
- [National Supply Disruption Centre](#) - 0800 915 9964
- [Rural Payments Agency \(RPA\) Trader team](#) - 0330 041 6500
- [Animal, Plant and Health Agency \(APHA\)](#) - 0300 100 0313
  - IPAFFS general - 0300 100 0313
  - IPAFFS technical - 0330 041 6999
  - PEACH - 0345 607 3224
- [Defra Rural Services](#) - 0300 020 0301
- [Environment Agency England](#) - 03708 506 506
- [Forestry Commission](#) - 0300 067 4000
- [Fish Exports Helpline](#) - 0330 159 1989
- [The Intellectual Property Office](#) - 0300 300 2000
- [BEIS Public Enquiries Helpline](#) - 020 7215 5000
- BEIS Business Support Lines:
  - [England](#) - 0800 998 1098
  - [Scotland](#) - 0300 303 0660
  - [Wales](#) - 0300 060 3000
  - [Northern Ireland](#) - 0800 181 4422
- [Citizen Advice Consumer Helpline](#) - 0808 223 1133
- [Department for Education Helpline](#) - 0370 000 2288
- [Home Office - UK Visas & Immigration Helpline](#) - 0300 790 6268
- [Home Office - EU Settlement Scheme Application Resolution Centre](#) - 0300 123 7379

HMRC also operates a number of services, including:

- Import/export general enquiries can be made by calling 0300 200 3700.

You can also [speak to an adviser online](#) about general import and export queries.

- It is also possible to [send a question about imports, exports and customs reliefs](#).

DEFRA Helplines:

DEFRA also has a number of additional [helplines](#) for the commodity you are exporting to the EU.

For questions to the DVSA on vehicle operator licensing you can call 0300 123 9000. For questions to the DVLA you should call 0300 790 6802.

The UK Government also operates an online forum where you can access key information and ask questions directly on [customs and tax](#).

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