

Brexit Update 3 August 2020 by Camilla Call, Brexit Advisor

The past week saw a couple of useful step by step documents released on how to import and export from 1 January 2021, followed by the next round of grant funding to support customs intermediaries and traders who complete their own customs declarations. We heard of the findings from two studies about the impacts of Brexit, both with negative sentiments and one coupled with the pressures from COVID-19. There have been no UK-EU negotiations over the past week as the next round is planned for 17 – 21 August.

On 28 July the Government released guides on [how to import](#) and [how to export](#), and at 10 pages and four pages respectively, are tiny in comparison to the >200 page document released three weeks ago (The Border with the European Union – Importing and Exporting Goods). While the latter still has its place, these bite-sized documents will be welcomed by businesses trying to get to grips with their changing responsibilities.

29 July saw a [report](#) released by the London School of Economics which warns of financial pressures from Brexit whether a trade deal is agreed or not. This also suggests industries impacted by Brexit are generally different to those impacted by COVID-19, a further blow to our economic outlook as the extent of businesses at risk widens. It concludes by saying "The UK's new trade policy after it exits the EU and its industrial strategy must reflect the necessities of being in a post-Brexit UK which is placed in a post-Covid world economy", two separate but equally detrimental challenges. At 13 pages this is a lengthy but worthwhile read to get an understanding of where we're at and what we're looking towards.

The latest round of funding for customs intermediaries went live 29 July with £50 million in [grants](#) available. The Government recognises the critical role customs intermediaries such as brokers, freight forwarders and express parcel operators will play in adapting to and benefiting from the new exporting model so have made funds available to support with recruitment, training and IT equipment to handle customs declarations.

On 30 July I attended a webinar on GDPR and Brexit, by Mark Gracey, covering the requirements for businesses when processing data on UK/EU clients when the UK becomes a third country. As mentioned on the call a lot of this frustratingly comes down to whether we agree a deal with the EU and the finer details of this, which could mean businesses have a lot of work to do on this towards the end of the year.

On 30 July we heard of the issue concerning [Eurotunnel](#) and what body would oversee the legalities when the transition period comes to an end. The UK Government has continually fought to remove the European Court of Justice from having a say in UK politics, but the EU wants the UK to reconsider to "ensure trains keep running between France and the UK". Not coming to a suitable agreement could mean train drivers require two qualifications to drive on both sides of the tunnel and the potential for "divergence in the future on everything from signalling, voltage, the radio systems, the signalling system, ventilation, hydraulics".



On 2 August we heard of a [study](#) by Daniel Tetlow, Oxford in Berlin and Daniel Auer, research fellow at the WZB's unit Migration, Integration, Transnationalization, which found that Brexit has been fuelling an increase in Brits leaving the UK since the 2016 referendum. The [Guardian](#) also reported on the study and felt it suggested a brain drain of economically productive people leaving the UK. While this outlines initial results of the study, loss of skilled workers was one of the concerns businesses had about Brexit. Difficulty with recruiting talent/skilled workers is often given as one of the top challenges for businesses in Dorset so this study could come as an added concern. The new points-based immigration policy promises to give "top priority to those with the highest skills and the greatest talents", but only time will tell with how this and the migratory movements pan out, when future studies like this one will reveal the trends.

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