



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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Plastic Packaging Tax: Submitting returns

If you produce or import 10 tonnes or more of plastic packaging within a 12-month period, you may need to register for Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) - even if your packaging contains 30% or more recycled plastic. Submit your return for the 1 July to 30 September period by 31 October 2022.

With the deadline only 18 days away a reminder of these steps and all return and payment dates for 2022-23 can be found here - [PPT flyer](#).

Reusable plastic crates and transport packaging

After reviewing information received from industry regarding reusable plastic crates, HMRC have determined that reusable plastic crates fall within the definition of transport packaging.

This means they are exempt from PPT when imported filled with goods into the UK. These items are not exempt from PPT when they are manufactured in the UK or imported unfilled. Updated guidance reflecting the position on reusable plastic crates can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

British lamb shipped to America for first time in over two decades

The United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) agreed to [open the market for British lamb](#) last year, and following the necessary inspections, the first consignment was flown to the USA last week containing lamb produced by meat processors Dunbia from its site in Carmarthenshire, Wales.

Avian influenza: Prevention Zone declared across Great Britain

Avian influenza Prevention Zone has been [declared across Great Britain](#) making it a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures. Defra recognise this is an incredibly difficult time for bird keepers who are on the frontline of this disease. There are numerous support networks that bird keepers can contact for help including the rural services helpline. Defra are working in partnership with Farming Help to support their work to help the farming community through challenging times. If this affects you, please either contact them on 03000 111 999 or visit their [Farming Help website](#).

Calling all food and drink SMEs in Yorkshire!

Join Defra for a Food and Drink Growth Masterclass in Harrogate on **1 November**. Industry experts will run masterclasses on 1) finance, innovation and resilience and 2) routes to market. These will be followed by a chance for SMEs to 'Meet the Experts' and hear about local support offers for businesses. Confirmed speakers include Deliciously Yorkshire, Nestlé, British Business Bank, DIT, and Enterprise Nation.

More information and registration page on here: [Yorkshire Food & Drink Growth Masterclass Tickets, Tue 1 Nov 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Apprenticeship webinars for SMEs

The Employer Engagement & Performance Division of the Apprenticeships Directorate (Department for Education) are delighted to introduce a free brand-new SME webinar programme for 2022/2023. These webinars will support SMEs in their end-to-end apprenticeship journeys with a focus on recruiting and supporting young people.

[The Benefits of Apprenticeships](#) (3 November, 11:00 - 11:40)

Hear from other SMEs who will tell their story of how apprenticeships have been a great recruitment tool to attract new talent and support succession planning for their existing workforce.

[Recruitment & Promoting apprenticeship vacancies](#) (7 December, 11:00 - 11:40)

Hear how other SMEs have successfully advertised and promoted their apprenticeships and connected with schools and colleges to attract young talent to their organisation.

[Onboarding & Induction](#) (11 January, 11:00 - 11:40)

Hear how other SMEs have committed to giving their apprentices the best start on their programme, ensuring their business is set up to effectively support apprenticeships.

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](#)
 - Telephone: 0300 303 8955
 - Textphone: 18001 0300 303 8955
 - Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (excluding public holidays)
- 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](#).
