



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

# TIME IS RUNNING OUT

01 JAN 2021

**NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS ARE COMING**

THERE ARE DEFINITE ACTIONS  
BUSINESS SHOULD TAKE NOW

**ACT NOW AT**

[GOV.UK/TRANSITION](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

-  Check
-  Change
-  Go

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#CheckChangeGo

# ACTIONS FOR BUSINESSES TO TAKE NOW

Topic	Action	Guidance
<p><b>Businesses that import and export goods</b></p>	<p>To continue to trade with the EU after 31 December 2020, you will need to follow new rules for exporting, including changes to processes and licensing. Visit <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a> to find out what you need to do.</p> <p>You can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get an EORI number if you do not already have one.</li> <li>• Decide how you want to make customs declarations and whether you need to get someone to deal with customs for you.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/eori">https://www.gov.uk/eori</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appoint-someone-to-deal-with-customs-on-your-behalf">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appoint-someone-to-deal-with-customs-on-your-behalf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu</a></p>
<p><b>Businesses that deliver services between the UK and the EU</b></p>	<p>Ensure your staff are able to continue to practise and provide services to clients in the UK after 31 December 2020 by ensuring their professional qualification(s) are recognised by their professional body in the UK. Go to <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transition">GOV.UK/transition</a> to find out what to do.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-your-eea-qualification-recognised-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-your-eea-qualification-recognised-in-the-uk-from-1-january-2021</a></p>

## ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE NOW

Topic	Action	Guidance
<b>Travelling to the EU</b>	<p>From 1 January 2021 there will be new rules to travel to Europe. Things you may need to do before you go include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the validity of your passport.</li> <li>• Get travel insurance that covers your healthcare.</li> <li>• Check you have the right driving documents.</li> <li>• Organise pet travel - contact your vet at least 4 months before you go.</li> <li>• Check roaming policies with your mobile provider before travelling.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021">https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-1-january-2021</a></p>
<b>Staying in the UK if you're an EU citizen</b>	<p>Check if you need to apply to the EU settlement scheme (EUSS) if you or your family are from the EU, or from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen">https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen</a></p>
<b>Continue living and working in the EU</b>	<p>Living and working in EU, EEA EFTA, Switzerland and Ireland depends on the rules in that country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may need to register or apply for residency.</li> <li>• You should check that you're covered for healthcare.</li> <li>• You may also need to exchange your UK driving licence for a licence issued by the EU country where you live.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/uk-nationals-living-eu">https://www.gov.uk/uk-nationals-living-eu</a></p>

## WHAT SUPPORT IS ALREADY AVAILABLE?

The best place to get support and information on how to prepare is [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition), which includes:

- A [transition checker quiz](#) so businesses can get personalised results about the specific actions they need to take;
- A live list of [upcoming webinars](#) where businesses can sign up to engage with experts;
- The [latest news](#) from the Government.

### Additional key Government advice:

- The [Border Operating Model](#) is a guide to how the border will work with the EU after the transition period. See the 'Guide to changes at the border' for a summary.
- Businesses can sign up to Business Readiness bulletins produced by BEIS [here](#).

There are also a number of other publications which you may find useful:

- The Institute for Government has published explainers on the transition period [here](#).
- The British Chambers of Commerce has published a checklist to support businesses prepare for the UK transition. You can download it [here](#).
- The Federation of Small Business has published guidance for small businesses [here](#).
- The Institute of Directors has a designated hub on Navigating Brexit for Business [here](#).
- Make UK has published guidance for manufacturers [here](#).

The Devolved Administrations have also published their own guidance on preparing for the end of the transition period:

- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

# LOCAL CONTACTS

## UK wide

- You can find your local Chamber of Commerce [here](#).
- You can find regional contacts for the Confederation of British Industry [here](#).
- You can find regional contacts for the Federation of Small Business [here](#).

## England only

- In England, you can find your local Growth Hub contact [here](#).

## Scotland only

- In Scotland, you can contact [Scottish Enterprise](#) or [Highlands & Islands Enterprise](#).

## Talk to us if you would like more support.

- Get in touch with the central UK transition communication team at: [\*\*communication-centre@cabinetoffice.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:communication-centre@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)
- You can reach our dedicated Business Partnerships team at: [\*\*businesspartnerships@cabinetoffice.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:businesspartnerships@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

# FAQS

## What is the transition period?

- After we left the EU on 31st January, we entered into a Transition Period until 31st December 2020.
- This is a period of time in which we are no longer a member of the EU but continue to be subject to EU rules and a member of the single market and customs union while the negotiations on our future relationship with the EU were taking place.
- As we transition to our new relationship, our new start will involve a series of changes and opportunities for businesses.

## When does it end?

- The transition period ends on 31 December 2020. This date will not change or be extended - this is written into our laws.
- Changes will therefore come into force on 1 January 2021, our new start.

## Do I need to do anything?

- Yes, you do. The end of the transition period will bring about a series of changes and opportunities for which we all need to prepare.
- The UK will be leaving the single market and customs union at the end of the year.
- The best way to find out what you need to do is to visit [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition). You can answer a few short questions and receive a personalised list of actions for you, your family and your business. You can also sign up to emails to get updates when things change.

## I already did some of the actions when you asked me to prepare in the past. Do I have to do them again?

- Yes - we update our guidance on a regular basis, so to ensure you know what is changing, go to [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) and use our transition checker and make sure you are registered for updates.

## What are the key actions I might need to take to prepare for the end of the transition period?

- The actions the public and business owners need to take vary based on their circumstances. Some of the key actions include:
  - Making sure you are ready to travel to the EU and EFTA states from 1 January 2021, for example by getting comprehensive travel insurance, ensuring your passport is valid, and checking your roaming policy with your mobile phone provider.
  - If you want to travel to the EU and EFTA states with your pet from 1 January 2021, contact your vet at least 4 months before you travel.
  - Making sure your business is ready to export or import from/to the EU, for example by getting an EU EORI number or registering with the relevant Customs Authority.
- Key actions that businesses and individuals need to take before the end of the transition period can be found on [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).

## Are all the actions that businesses and individuals need to take online on GOV.UK?

- Yes, we have added the key actions you can take now into one place on [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).
- Here, you can complete the 'Transition Checker tool', find out actions to take and register for updates. Additional guidance may be provided later in the year when the outcome of our trade negotiations with the EU are clear.

# CITIZENS FAQs

## Do I need to do anything differently when visiting the EU?

- Get comprehensive travel insurance for travel to the EU from January 2021 onwards.
- Check your passport is valid for travel to the EU from 1 January 2021 and if it's not, renew your passport to make sure you can travel as planned. Visit [GOV.UK/checkpassport](https://www.gov.uk/check-passport)
- If you want to travel to the EU with your pet from January 2021, contact a vet at least 4 months before you travel.
- On 1 January 2021, rules around mobile roaming in the EU will change and your mobile provider may charge you more for calls or data when abroad. Check roaming policies with your mobile provider before travelling to the EU

## I'm a UK citizen living in the EU. What do I need to do?

- Register / apply for residency in the country you currently live
- Make sure your passport is valid when applying for residency in the EU member state where you live.
- Register for healthcare in the country you currently live.
- Exchange your UK driving licence for a local one.
- You can check what you specifically need to do at [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).
- You can also sign up for 'Living in Guide' alerts

## I'm an EU citizen living in the UK. What do I need to do?

- If you are a European Economic Area or Swiss citizen living in the UK you can apply for Settled Status from now until 30 June 2021.
- The EU Settlement Scheme means you can continue to live and work in the UK. Apply now at [GOV.UK/eusettledstatus](https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus)
- You can check what you specifically need to do at [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).

## Does this apply to me if I'm living in Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland?

- Yes. You can check what you need to do at [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).

## I'm a British citizen / Irish citizen. Will my Common Travel Area rights continue after the transition period?

- The Common Travel Area (CTA) pre-dates the UK and Ireland's membership of the European Union and will continue after the end of the transition period.
- The UK Government and the Irish Government are firmly committed to the continuity of the CTA.
- Under the CTA British and Irish nationals have a unique status and can enjoy a range of reciprocal rights in each other's countries.
- The CTA arrangements allow both British and Irish nationals to travel freely within this special area; this will not change
- Irish citizens in the UK and British citizens in Ireland have the right to work, study, and access social security and public services in each other's countries. These rights will be maintained under the CTA.

## What is the Withdrawal Agreement?

- The Withdrawal Agreement sets out the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU and provides for a deal on citizens' rights.
- You will be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement if you are a UK national lawfully residing in another EU country by the end of the transition period, on 31 December 2020.
- The Withdrawal Agreement secures your rights and allows you to stay in the EU country where you live after 31 January 2020. You will continue to have broadly the same entitlements to work, study and access public services and benefits as before the UK left the EU.
- You and your family may need to apply for a residence status to confirm that you were already resident in the EU country you live in before 31 December 2020. You will have until at least 30 June 2021 to do this.

# BUSINESS FAQs

## I'm a business. Do I need to do anything specific?

- Your business will have to make a number of changes to ensure continued flow of people, data, goods and services between the UK and the EU. These actions are required for businesses:
  - If you sell goods to the EU you must prepare for new customs procedures.
  - If you travel to the EU for work purposes you will need to check if you need a visa or work permit and apply if necessary.
  - If you employ overseas nationals you will need to prepare your business for the implementation of the new immigration system.
  - If you are a UK business or organisation that receives personal data from contacts in the EEA, you may need to take extra steps to ensure that the data can continue to flow at the end of the transition period.
  - If you provide services in the EU, you must ensure that your qualifications are now recognised by EU regulations to be able to practice or service clients in the EU. Yes. Many of the changes and opportunities that are coming at the end of the year relate to business.

## Will I be able to hire EU nationals in the future, and under what conditions?

- Yes - but the way you hire from the EU is changing. Free movement is ending and the UK is introducing a new points-based immigration system.
- From 1 January 2021, if you want to hire anyone from outside the UK you must be a Home Office licenced sponsor. This includes recruiting people from the EU.
- Anyone coming to the UK to work will need a job offer from a licenced sponsor in advance, and will need to meet certain skills and salary criteria.
- Find out more information on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## How can my company continue to trade cross-border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain?

- As we set out in the Command Paper on 20 May, we are committed to working closely with businesses as we implement the Northern Ireland Protocol - they are at the heart of our approach.
- That is reflected in the commitments we have made: to unfettered access to the whole UK market; to no tariffs on goods remaining in the UK's customs territory; to NI benefiting in full from the UK's FTAs with third countries; and to streamlining the processes under the Protocol to the maximum extent - to ensure there is no new customs infrastructure.
- We have set up a new Trader Support Service, providing an end-to-end service which will guide traders through all import processes at no additional cost. This is a unique intervention, backed by £200m in Government funding, ensuring that businesses of all sizes can draw on the support it provides.

## My business is primarily based in the EU - what do I need to do?

- If you run an EU-based business, you need to check the new rules and prepare for the changes so that you can continue trading with the UK from January 2021.
- Rules are changing and there will be border requirements placed on the movement of goods between the EU and UK.
- Check the guidance and find help and support at [GOV.UK/eubusiness](https://www.gov.uk/eubusiness)

## NARRATIVE FOR BUSINESS

The UK has left the EU and new rules for business with the EU start on 1 January 2021. The transition period will end on 31 December 2020 and will not be extended. You must act now to prepare for the concrete changes ahead. There are actions your business needs to take now, and you can find guidance and support on [GOV.UK/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition).

Your business will have to make a number of changes to ensure continued flow of people, data, goods and services between the UK and the EU. These actions are required for businesses:

- If you sell goods to the EU you must prepare for new customs procedures.
- If you travel to the EU for work purposes you will need to check if you need a visa or work permit and apply if necessary.
- If you employ overseas nationals you will need to prepare your business for the implementation of the new immigration system.
- If you are a UK business or organisation that receives personal data from contacts in the EEA, you may need to take extra steps to ensure that the data can continue to flow legally at the end of the transition period.
- If you provide services in the EU, you must ensure that your qualifications are now recognised by EU regulations to be able to practice or service clients in the EU.

Whilst many businesses would have been preparing for the end of the transition period since last year, we recognise the impact COVID-19 will have had on their ability to plan and prepare. We understand that many businesses are still dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and we have a number of support schemes available including loans, grants, income support schemes and tax deferrals to support businesses through this period.



# Key Contacts

For further support in communicating the UK Transition campaign to your local community, please reach out to our key GCS Local contacts listed here:

**For general enquiries:** [gcs-local-campaigns-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:gcs-local-campaigns-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**North:** [gcsnorth@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:gcsnorth@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**Midlands:** [midlands@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:midlands@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**South:** [hmg-south@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:hmg-south@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland:** [blair.heary@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:blair.heary@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**GCS Local Campaigns and Insight:** [ben.wilkinson@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ben.wilkinson@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**GCS Local on Twitter:**

[@HMGSouthWest](https://twitter.com/HMGSouthWest)

[@HMGNorth](https://twitter.com/HMGNorth)

[@HMGLondonSE](https://twitter.com/HMGLondonSE)

[@UKGovScotland](https://twitter.com/UKGovScotland)

[@HMGMidlands](https://twitter.com/HMGMidlands)

[@UKGovWales](https://twitter.com/UKGovWales)

[@HMGEast](https://twitter.com/HMGEast)

[@NIOGov](https://twitter.com/NIOGov)



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**THANK YOU**

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