**BREXIT UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019**

**EU exit: no deal preparations for schools, further education and higher education**

On 31st January, DfE published guidance on how to prepare in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal. This includes guidance for [schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-schools-in-england), [further education and apprenticeship providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-further-education-and-apprenticeship-providers), and [higher education institutions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-higher-education-institutions).

**Protecting social security rights of UK and Irish citizens after Brexit**

On 4th February the UK government [announced](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-deal-to-protect-social-security-rights-of-uk-and-irish-citizens-living-and-working-in-each-other-s-state) an agreement on social security with Ireland in the context of the Common Travel Area arrangements. The agreement ensures that the rights of UK and Irish citizens living and working in each other’s state are protected after the UK leaves the EU.

**Charities to become authorised advisors to EU citizens applying to settle in the UK**

On 4th February the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) [launched](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-level-1-eu-settlement-scheme-registration) a new scheme for charities and other organisations to apply more quickly to become registered advisors to EU citizens when they apply to settle in the UK.

**EU Exit: road haulage**

On 5th February DfT [laid](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/eu-exit-road-haulage) a road haulage statutory instrument in Parliament which is designed to ensure UK law operates effectively if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The legislation provides for continued access to the UK market, after exit, for hauliers from the 27 EU member states.

**Maintaining EU restrictions on F gases and Ozone Depleting Substances in the event of a No Deal Brexit**

On 11th February the government [launched](https://buckscc.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13a5573eec49f452403a414b7&id=ea6a276350&e=29e722d061) a new system to ensure the UK maintains current restrictions on the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases in the event of a no deal Brexit.

**Importing and exporting waste if there’s no Brexit deal**

On 11th February, DEFRA published [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-waste-if-theres-no-brexit-deal?utm_source=9e7276a7-2e5b-45b0-8e6d-3cb1fed24c10&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate) setting out what waste importers and exporters must do to prepare for changes to rules around waste shipments if the UK leaves the EU with no deal on 29th March 2019.

**UK and Switzerland sign trade continuity agreement**

On 11th February DIT [signed](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement) a trade continuity agreement with Switzerland which will see British businesses and consumers benefiting from continued trade after we leave the European Union.

**Help and support for traders if the UK leaves the EU with no deal**

 On 22nd February, HMRC published [videos](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-for-traders-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal) about trading with the EU after 29th March 2019 if the UK leaves without a deal. This includes imports, exports and changes at the UK border.

**Planning for a possible no-deal EU Exit: information for the health and care sector**

On 22nd February, DHSC published updated [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-for-a-possible-no-deal-eu-exit-information-for-the-health-and-care-sector) for industry and organisations involved in health and care about contingency plans for a no-deal Brexit.

**UK and Switzerland sign citizens’ rights agreement**

On 25th February the UK [signed](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-citizens-rights-agreement) the Swiss citizens’ rights agreement which will protect UK nationals resident in Switzerland and Swiss nationals resident in the UK when we leave the European Union. It will allow people to continue contributing to their communities and living their lives much as they do now.

**Implications for business and trade of a no deal exit**

On 26th February, DExEU published a [document](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implications-for-business-and-trade-of-a-no-deal-exit-on-29-march-2019) explaining the Government’s latest assessment of the implications for business and international trade in the UK, if it leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March. This paper summarises Government activity to prepare for no deal as a contingency plan, and provides an assessment of the implications of a no deal exit for trade and for businesses, given the preparations that have been made.

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