

New £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund

The Government has [announced a new SME Brexit Support Fund](#) to help small businesses adjust to new customs procedures, rules of origin, and VAT rules when trading with the EU.

[Eligible firms](#) could get up to £2,000 to pay for practical support including training and professional advice to ensure they can continue trading effectively with the EU. The application window will be open in due course.

Leasing vehicles for use in Northern Ireland

The BVRLA has updated its [EU Exit Business Advice page](#) to include a section on ‘Leasing vehicles for use in Northern Ireland’ following a string of enquiries from members seeking clarification on common issues, including:

- What are the correct customs procedures to follow for a leased vehicle?
- Could vehicles entering NI from GB have to pay tariffs?

The BVRLA has worked with HMRC, BEIS and the Institute of Exports and International Trade to get guidance for members on these issues.

Members who do business in Northern Ireland are advised to check that the processes they are following are compliant and to visit the BVRLA web page for the latest advice.

To make the policy team aware of any issues not being addressed, email policy@bvrla.co.uk.

Industry highlights concerns about trade flows

Cabinet Office has openly [published its response](#) to the Road Haulage Association who has written to the Government claiming that not enough is being done to address the “devastating consequences” on critical supply chains following EU Exit.

The Government refutes figures published in a recent RHA survey, stating that exports going through British ports to the EU fell by 68% last month compared with January last year. The Border Operations Centre reports that during the last full week (30 Jan to 5 Feb) both outbound and inbound flows (across all UK ports) were close to normal, at 95% outbound and 96% inbound.

The BVRLA would like to hear from any members experiencing issues relating to the flow of goods and asks that you share your experiences via policy@bvrla.co.uk

Bringing multiple caravans into the UK

The Government has [published information](#) about what form needs to be completed when bringing multiple caravans into the UK from the EU, which have a final destination of Northern Ireland. A separate form is required for those purchased outside of the EU.

The forms needs to be attached to your online notification when using the HMRC’s ‘Notification of Vehicle Arrivals online service’.

Declaration of goods in to and out of Northern Ireland

In due course, all [declarations in to and out of Northern Ireland](#) will need to be made using the Customs Declaration Service.

The use of the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system for Northern Ireland declarations will be reviewed by HMRC, and they will confirm when to stop using it.

HMRC provides advice to those trading with EU

HMRC has launched a webchat service to add to its [suite of support services](#) enabling businesses to ask questions about imports, exports and customs relief.

There is also a Customs & International Trade Helpline which you can call to speak to an advisor on 0300 322 9434. The helpline is open 8am to 10pm midweek and 8am to 4pm at weekends.

New restrictions on taking food and drink into the EU

The Government is reminding drivers travelling to the EU that there are [new restrictions](#) on what items can be taken across the border, with many foods and drink items now prohibited for personal importation.

Products of an animal origin (POAO) such as those containing meat or dairy cannot be taken into the EU. There are exceptions to this rule for certain quantities of powdered infant milk, infant food, special foods, or special processed pet feed.