

BREXIT BASICS

Issue 1, 23 November 2020

PREPARING FOR BREXIT

Introduction

With only **39** days to go until the UK leaves the European Union (EU) as the coronavirus pandemic continues, this is the first in a series of Brexit briefings that will be circulated to businesses across South Ayrshire. This is the first in a series of Brexit briefings from South Ayrshire Council's Economy & Regeneration team that we will be circulating to businesses.

This issue will focus on the fundamentals of what Brexit may mean for your business and highlight a number of key areas that your business may need to prepare for as the **1st January 2021** approaches. Future issues of "Brexit Basics" will review some of these key areas in more detail.

The UK is currently in a "transition period" with the EU as final negotiations on a trade deal continue. There will be one of two outcomes from negotiations:

(a) A UK-EU trade deal is agreed

This would result in agreement of a new relationship with the EU covering such issues as trade, mobility, travel and security.

(b) The UK leaves the EU with no deal

If there is no agreement between the UK and EU, the prospect of a no-deal exit becomes likely. This would have significant implications for businesses since the UK would need to trade with the EU on [WTO](#) rules, bringing in tariffs on a range of exports and imports.

What key areas will Brexit impact on?

- Living and working in the EU, also recruiting staff from within the EU
- People/staff staying in the UK if they are an EU citizen
- Travelling into/out of the EU for business and leisure
- Importing goods into the UK
- Exporting goods from the UK

To stay up to date on how Scotland is preparing for Brexit and how your business can too, please make sure to visit the [Prepare for Brexit](#) website

WHAT DOES BREXIT MEAN FOR MY ORGANISATION?

Brexit will impact on a number of areas critical to many businesses and industry sectors across Scotland and the UK as a whole. A summary of these changes are shown below, read through these and take some time to consider whether any or all of these will affect how you trade. Please note that additional changes to the below list may come into effect, dependent on the outcomes of negotiations with the EU on a trade deal;

- There will be a new UK immigration system from the 1st January 2021, ending free movement of people – this will affect recruitment of staff from EU member states
- For companies with staff who are nationals of EU member states, these staff need to apply for the EU settlement scheme by 30 June 2021
- How businesses import and export goods to the UK will change
- If you currently trade within the EU, your organisation will now need to make customs declarations
- The CE mark will change to the UKCA mark, however the EU will still require a CE market on products if their market destinations are within the EU
- Hauliers will need appropriate licences and permits and a good understanding on the rules around transporting certain types of goods
- UK staff travelling in and out of the EU for business will require 6 months validity on their passports

WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE AND SUPPORT?

We would strongly recommend that you use the existing advice portals set up by the Scottish and UK Government's, to allow preparation for Brexit. We'd also endorse the check, change, go tool that is set out in the first point below;

- **Check, change, go:** The UK Government has a [tool](#) that you can use to **generate a personalised list of actions** that your organisation may need to take in preparation for the 1st January 2021.
- **Brexit checklist:** This [checklist](#), prepared by the Scottish Government, **highlights ten areas** that you may need to address as part of your Brexit planning.
- **National advice line:** You can call **0300 303 0661** (Mon- Fri, 8.30am – 5.30pm) to speak to an export advisor, or you can contact the team [here](#).
- **Business after Brexit:** This [page](#) will contain all updates for businesses as soon as they are known.

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