Call for Evidence

Import check readiness

On 1 January 2022, the first step was introduced for Great Britain: import pre-notification for all products of animal origin (POAO) from all EU countries except the Republic of Ireland. POAO importers are now required to tell the relevant regulatory body about a consignment’s country of origin, place of destination, and the specific species/product in advance of its arrival.

However, more detailed checks and controls - Export Health Certificates, and identity and physical checks at an appropriate border control post (BCP) – won’t be introduced until at least 1 July 2022, over 18 months after the EU introduced such controls on GB exports. These will be phased in across different POAO types:

- from 1 July 2022: all meat and meat products; all regulated plant and plant products; plus all remaining regulated animal by-products and high risk foods not of animal origin;
- from 1 September 2022: all dairy products
- from 1 November 2022: all remaining regulated POAO, including composite products and fish products.

For live animals, from 1 July 2022 identity and physical checks will move from the point of destination to the border, but only at those ports and airports that have a suitable BCP ready.

Under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol, these issues only affect Great Britain, and not Northern Ireland. Issues relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol fall outside of the scope of this call for evidence.

Call for evidence:

1. Has the introduction of import pre-notification for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) goods from EU Member States (except the Republic of Ireland) on 1 January 2022 gone smoothly? How has the Government responded to concerns raised by businesses since their introduction?
2. Was the Government right to delay on four occasions the introduction of import checks and controls? How well has it managed and communicated those delays?
3. How prepared are British food and farming sector businesses, border posts and the Government for the introduction of further checks from 1 July 2022? What will be the impact of these extra checks?

4. How confident is the sector that the timetable for introducing further checks from July 2022 will be met?