HM Government

EU Exit

Taking back control of our borders, money, and laws while protecting our economy, security and Union

Now is the time to come together
To build a brighter future

Introduction

On 29 March 2019, **the United Kingdom will leave the European Union**. The Government has pursued a path to deliver a Brexit for the whole of the UK, that works in the national interest.

The Brexit deal we have reached with the EU **delivers on the referendum result**, and is comprised of two components: the Withdrawal Agreement setting the terms of our exit; and a political declaration on the future relationship that will be turned into legal text after the UK leaves the EU.

This deal **takes back control of our borders, our laws and our money, and protects jobs, our security, and our United Kingdom**. It ensures that our exit is smooth and orderly, and provides a framework for the future that ensures we remain the closest of friends and allies.

For our economy, the deal sets out the terms of a new **economic partnership** that will protect critical trade between the UK and the EU, safeguarding jobs and livelihoods through an ambitious free trade agreement, while giving the UK new flexibility to open up trade and growth opportunities with the rest of the world. An implementation period ensures a smooth and stable transition for business to this new partnership.

For our security, the deal incorporates a new **security partnership** that respects our sovereign decision making, while enabling us to continue cooperation that protects our citizens and act together globally where we have shared interests.

For our United Kingdom, the deal **safeguards the constitutional and economic integrity of the UK** and meets our commitments to Northern Ireland. As powers are returned to the UK, where they are within areas of devolved competence, they will flow directly to Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. It is a deal that also works for the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, as well as our rural and coastal communities.

The deal the Government has struck takes into account the interests of every side of the debate, and it is the only deal that delivers for the whole of the UK. It is **a deal to bring the country back together**.

Taking back control of our borders, our money and our laws

The Brexit deal will give the people of the United Kingdom back control of their borders, their money and their laws.

The referendum was a call to reclaim the UK's sovereignty, ensuring the the decisions that affect us are made by those we elect. The deal delivers on that promise.

Taking back control of our borders

Free movement will end, with our own Parliament deciding our domestic immigration policy in the national interest.

New controls will be put in place as part of a fairer immigration system, which focuses on a person's skills, not where they come from. The brightest and best will continue to be welcomed, serving the interests of the whole of the UK and reflecting the needs of businesses and communities.

In line with that new immigration system and similar to arrangements the UK might offer other close trading partners in the future, the deal provides the basis for arrangements with the EU on specific mobility provisions, including: visa free travel for short-term visits; entry and stay conditions for research, study, training and youth exchanges; effective procedures at the border; and the possibility for agreement on areas of social security consistent with the arrangements on mobility.

We have also protected the rights of UK nationals living in the EU and EU citizens living in the UK. The Withdrawal Agreement safeguards the rights of those citizens lawfully resident in the UK or the EU before the end of the implementation period, ensuring they can live their lives broadly as now. Non-EU family members living lawfully in the UK with their EU citizen relative are also protected.

A new settled status scheme has been established in the UK for the 3 million EU citizens living here, providing a streamlined system for people to obtain their new UK immigration status. EU countries are putting in place arrangements for the 1 million UK nationals living in their own countries.

Taking back control of our money

Vast annual payments to the EU will end and the UK will leave the EU budget. Money can now be invested in domestic priorities, including the NHS. In June 2018, the Government announced over £394 million more per week for the NHS by 2023/24. Every part of the UK will benefit, with billions in extra funding for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

There are of course areas where it makes sense for the UK and the EU to continue to pool resources, where we will deliver more together than we could alone. These include science and innovation, culture and education, and overseas development and external action.

Finally, the UK will honour those obligations we have to the EU as a result of our 45 years of membership, just as they will honour theirs to us. The Withdrawal Agreement therefore includes a financial settlement which is fair to the British taxpayer, and protects the interests of those communities in the UK receiving funding from the EU. The precise settlement will depend on future events, but the Government has set out a central estimate of £35-39 billion – an estimate that has been independently corroborated.

Taking back control of our laws

EU law in the UK will end, as will the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

The laws that we live by will once again be passed by our elected representatives in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London – who are fully accountability to the people of the UK. UK courts will no longer refer cases to the CJEU, with our Supreme Court truly supreme.

In order to bring an end to EU law in a smooth and orderly way, Parliament passed the EU (Withdrawal) Act in June 2018. EU law will be converted into UK law, avoiding any sudden or unpredictable uncertainty.

Instead, our Parliament will have time to decide what to do with our new freedoms, and deliver changes in a way that works for businesses and citizens across the country.

This objective, of a smooth and orderly separation, is also the principal driver behind much of the Withdrawal Agreement, including in respect of ongoing processes and arrangements. It provides clarity and certainty to businesses and citizens about how the EU legal order will be wound-down for ongoing processes, such as goods being placed on the market or ongoing cooperation between police forces and criminal justice authorities, without prejudicing the arrangements that we expect to have in place under our future relationship with the EU.

It is of course possible that in the future there are disputes between the UK and the EU over our new agreements. These will be heard and resolved by an independent body, consistent with the principle that the court of one party cannot resolve disputes between the two. And to ensure consistent interpretation of our new agreements, our courts will continue to look at the case law of relevant EU rules when deciding a case, so that people and businesses are treated equally.

Protecting our economy

The Brexit deal will protect our economy by delivering a new and ambitious trading partnership with the EU, while freeing us to pursue an independent trade policy.

A new economic partnership

The UK and the EU have a particularly important trading and investment relationship, reflecting decades of economic integration and the sizes of both economies. The Brexit deal therefore sets out an ambitious, wide-ranging and balanced economic partnership.

Encompassing goods and services as well as wider sectoral cooperation, this economic partnership will protect complex supply chains and minimise the introduction of barriers to trade. In doing so, it will protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK and the EU.

The time-limited implementation period will ensure a smooth and stable transition to that partnership for businesses and citizens.

Goods

The UK and the EU want the relationship on goods to be as close as possible. So the economic partnership will include a free trade area that combines deep regulatory and customs cooperation – all with the aim of facilitating the ease of trade.

Within this free trade area there will be no tariffs and no fees, charges or quantitative restrictions across all sectors, and no need for checks on rules of origin. No other advanced economy has this arrangement with the EU.

On regulation, we will agree common principles on compliance processes, explore cooperation with EU agencies such as the European Medicines Agency, the European Chemicals Agency and the European Aviation Safety Agency, and consider aligning with specific EU rules where that could help to deliver our objectives.

On customs, we will put in place ambitious new arrangements that develop the single customs territory provided for in the Withdrawal Agreement in line with the principles of the economic partnership, including respecting the integrity of the UK's internal market and recognising the development of our independent trade policy with the rest of the world beyond our partnership with the EU. In doing so, we will incorporate all facilitative arrangements and technologies.

As the Brexit deal acknowledges, the exact design of this regulatory and customs cooperation could lead to a spectrum of different outcomes for administrative processes, checks and controls - and both the UK and the EU are committed to being as ambitious as possible. The UK's aim is to finalise a design that allows for frictionless trade outside of the EU's Customs Union and Single Market. While this is not an aim shared by everyone in the EU, we will continue to work to secure it.

Services

Alongside close arrangements on goods, the Brexit deal also provides the basis for ambitious and comprehensive arrangements on services trade and investment, going well beyond WTO commitments. These arrangements will minimise discriminatory and non-discriminatory barriers as far as possible. They will also ensure that our future domestic regulatory approaches complement each other – at the same time as ensuring that the UK has regulatory flexibility, which is important for our services-based economy and the development of our independent trade policy. We will also develop arrangements to help professionals to practise across the EU using a qualification from the UK, and vice versa.

The deal includes new arrangements for financial services. Reflecting its importance to the economy as a whole and its highly interconnected nature, the UK and the EU have reaffirmed their shared principles in relation to financial stability and market integrity. Where equivalence frameworks exist, the EU and the UK will take decisions by the end of June 2020, and moving forward will keep their frameworks under review. We have also agreed that it would be in our mutual interest to have a close and structured approach to the regulation and supervision of our sectors, enabling greater transparency, consultation and information exchange – including in relation to any withdrawal of equivalence decisions, providing greater predictability over market access.

Sectoral cooperation

Beyond this, there are a number of areas covered by the Brexit deal that support or complement the overall partnership. These include:

- specific arrangements on digital, covering a wide range of areas, including e-commerce, telecoms and emerging technologies;
- a new comprehensive agreement on air transport;
- comparable market access for freight and road transport operators;
- consideration of arrangements for private motorists;
- a framework for electricity and gas cooperation with mechanisms covering security of supply and efficient trading;
- wide-ranging cooperation between the UK and Euratom on nuclear energy;
- cooperation on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property beyond international treaties; and
- consideration of mutual opportunities in public procurement markets beyond the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.

  Arrangements to ensure the protection and free flow of personal data will underpin this economic partnership, as well as the security partnership.

Open and fair competition

In any trading relationship, competition must be open and fair. So the Brexit deal sets out that there will be provisions on state aid, competition, social and employment standards, environmental standards, climate change, and relevant tax matters relating to good governance and strong standards but not tax rates. Critically, however,all of these provisions will be proportionate to the scope and depth of the future economic relationship.

Implementation period

The final design of the economic partnership will be the subject of negotiations that will begin immediately after our withdrawal. In order to provide certainty and clarity to businesses and citizens during this period, and to smooth the transition to the new partnership, the Brexit deal includes a time-limited implementation period, during which the UK's and the EU's access to each other's markets will continue on current terms.

The implementation period means businesses only have to prepare for one change in the trading relationship. International agreements which apply by virtue of the UK's membership of the EU will continue to do so as now. And the UK will be free to negotiate, sign and ratify new trade deals with other global partners to take effect after the implementation period.

Trading with the world

Trade has had, and continues to have, an overwhelmingly positive impact on prosperity in the UK. On leaving the EU, the UK will be free to pursue its own independent trade policy beyond the economic partnership with the EU, reflecting our desire to be a country that is more open and outward looking than ever before.

The UK will have its own seat and vote in the WTO as an independent member, and will be able to strike bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral deals. We will continue to advocate for the reduction of barriers to trade, and use our voice to resist unfair protectionism, tackle unfair trading practices and hold others to account to global rules.

Protecting our security

The Brexit deal will protect our security by delivering a new and ambitious security partnership with the EU, while giving us greater control over our foreign policy.

A new security partnership

The UK remains unconditionally committed to Europe's security, and during our membership of the EU we have worked with all Member States to tackle threats from within and without. The Brexit deal therefore sets out a broad, comprehensive and balanced security partnership for continued cooperation, which respects our sovereignty, the EU's autonomy and that national security is and always will be a matter for sovereign states.

Covering foreign policy, security and defence, law enforcement and criminal justice, and a range of thematic security issues, this security partnership will help keep citizens safe, and promote global security, prosperity and effective multilateralism. The deal represents the broadest and most comprehensive security relationship the EU has with any third country.

POLICE

Foreign policy, security and defence cooperation

On foreign, security and defence policy, we have agreed to strike an ambitious new flexible and scalable relationship that allows us to combine resources worldwide for maximum impact.

The deal provides for regular consultation and cooperation, recognising the UK and the EU will continue to stand side by side around the world. The UK will be able to participate in EU operations and missions where there is a shared interest to do so — strengthening international security, promoting stability and tackling threats. Where the UK chooses to participate, we will be consulted early, and involved closely in operational planning.

The same approach is true for sanctions, where we will undertake close consultation and cooperation with the aim of ensuring our approaches are mutually supportive.

Collaboration on cutting-edge defence research and development will continue, helping to ensure armed forces remain capable and the European defence industry remains world-leading. And both sides wish to cooperate on space, which is increasingly important to our security.

Dialogue on development issues will continue, and further consideration will be given as to whether and how we might contribute to EU activities in future.

Policing and law enforcement cooperation

On policing and law enforcement, the new partnership will see the UK and the EU continue to work closely together in order to tackle shared threats from serious and organised crime — recognising that terrorists and criminals know no borders. So we have agreed to develop a broad and comprehensive relationship covering practical cooperation, data sharing, close collaboration between law enforcement agencies and anti-money laundering cooperation.
As with the economic partnership, this new security partnership will be based on an appropriate balance between rights and obligations, and underpinned by the UK's and the EU's long-standing commitments to the protection of people's rights and personal data.

The Brexit deal includes a fast-tracked extradition arrangement, based on streamlined procedures and time limits. It also includes the swift exchange of information to disrupt criminal activity and facilitate law enforcement activity, with continued arrangements on the sharing of passenger name records, and DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data.

Crucially, the deal recognises we might want to go further, especially given our shared interest in continuing to share real time data on wanted and missing persons and criminal records. We will therefore look at how we can put in place arrangements that in so far as is possible approximate the relevant Union mechanisms – namely the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SISII) and the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) – and do likewise in other areas of law enforcement and judicial cooperation, in order to deliver additional operational capabilities.

Given the importance of a close working relationship between law enforcement and criminal justice bodies, we have also agreed to develop new terms for cooperation via Europol and Eurojust.

Thematic issues

Alongside these measures will sit close cooperation on other thematic issues – reflecting the diverse security threats that Europe faces.

On counter-terrorism and cyber, the security partnership will enable continued dialogue and the sharing of best practice, reflecting the significant expertise we have brought to tackling cyber threats in the past, and the value we will continue to offer in the future. We will also continue to cooperate on tackling health security threats, and coordinate efforts on civil protection issues.

Finally, managing illegal migration is a global challenge facilitated by organised crime and exploiting vulnerable migrants. So we will continue joint efforts to tackle this issue, ensuring no new incentives are created for people to make dangerous journeys to Europe, while providing support to the most vulnerable migrants.

Protecting our United Kingdom

The Brexit deal will protect our United Kingdom by preserving our constitutional and economic integrity, and support communities that for too long have been left behind.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is the only nation in the UK that shares a land border with the EU, and protecting the hard-won gains of the peace process has been and will remain a fundamental priority for the Government.

This is why we have agreed a Brexit deal that guarantees there could never be a hard border on the island of Ireland – and this guarantee is split into two parts.

- First, in the Withdrawal Agreement, we have included a 'backstop' arrangement that would create a temporary single customs territory between the UK and the EU, in the event that our future relationship is not finalised by the end of the implementation period. This would ensure the border remained open, respecting the UK's sovereignty and protecting Northern Ireland's place in the UK's internal market.
- Second, within the new economic partnership, we have set out our shared determination to put in place alternative arrangements that ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland on a permanent basis, such that even if the backstop had been used, it would cease and be superseded by those arrangements. Critically, neither the UK nor the EU wishes to see the backstop enter into force. We fully expect the alternative arrangements to be ready by the end of 2020, with both sides legally obliged to use their best endeavours to avoid the need for the backstop to ever be used.

The Common Travel Area (CTA) will also be upheld, ensuring British and Irish citizens can travel freely between the UK and Ireland, and the deal protects wider rights and privileges. The Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration confirm that the Belfast ('Good Friday') Agreement will be respected in full, including the constitutional status of Northern Ireland and the principle of consent.

Nations and territories

The Government is committed to strengthening the decision making abilities of the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through the direct transfer of powers in areas of devolved competence. In areas vital to the operation of the UK's internal market and to the protection of common resources – such as air, rivers and seas – we will continue to take common approaches.

The deal, including the implementation period, also covers the UK's Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies. In addition, a Protocol on Gibraltar reflects the UK's, Spain's and the Government of Gibraltar's intention to work together in support of the shared prosperity and security of the area. Separate provisions on the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) protect the interests of Cypriots living and working in the SBAs and ensure the continued effective operation of the SBAs for military purposes.

Communities

On taking office, the Prime Minister made a pledge to the people of the UK to listen to communities right across the country. In line with this, the Government is committed to establishing fairer farming and fishing policies that truly work for rural and coastal communities.

The UK will therefore leave the Common Fisheries Policy and become an independent coastal state, with full control of our own waters. The agreement reached protects the interests of our fishing community, and ensures we work with the EU and other coastal states to foster a clean, healthy and productive marine environment and to manage shared stocks.

The UK will also leave the Common Agricultural Policy. In its place, the Government along with the Devolved Administrations will develop a new domestic regime that truly meets the needs of the rural farming community.

Delivering on the deal

The terms of the UK's orderly exit from the EU are now finalised, and the scope of our future relationship is agreed. It is now for Parliament to approve the deal, and deliver on the result of the 2016 referendum.

Once Parliament has approved the deal, the Government will introduce the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill. This will give effect to the Withdrawal Agreement in UK law, including the protections for citizens' rights and the operation of the implementation period.

In the period before we leave the EU on 29 March next year, the UK and the EU will engage in preparatory organisational work, to ensure formal talks on developing the legal agreements required to give effect to the future relationship can begin straight away and progress swiftly.

Immediately following the UK's departure, formal negotiations to give the future relationship legal form will begin. The Brexit deal will guide these talks, providing instructions to both negotiating teams to get the relationship ready by the end of 2020.

Together we will build a relationship that works in the interests of citizens in the UK and the EU, now and in the future.

HM Government

Taking back control

- ☑ Our borders
- ☑ Our money
- ☑ Our laws

Protecting

- ☑ Our economy
- ☑ Our security
- ☑ Our United Kingdom