



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 5 February 2020



OLS Introduction

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest guidance whilst the UK is in the transition period, providing you with important information from Government to help your members and networks prepare for the end of the transition period.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email anisha.visram@beis.gov.uk.

Written Ministerial Statement

Following the UK's exit from the EU on 31 January, the Prime Minister has [laid a Written Ministerial Statement](#) (WMS) in the House of Commons that sets out the Government's proposed approach to negotiations with the EU. The WMS provides information on the future EU FTA including trade remedies, market access for goods, technical barriers to trade and regulatory frameworks. Further details on this and negotiations with other trading partners will be made available soon.

Transition period update

We are now in the transition period. During this period existing laws and regulations will generally continue to apply for businesses. UK businesses will be able to continue to access EU markets and markets in other countries which have trade agreements with the EU. The same applies for EU businesses accessing the UK market.

[Please visit this link](#) for a list of actions that you can complete now, all transition period information and the opportunity to sign up to email updates.

Future Relationship negotiations

The Government is preparing to negotiate a future relationship with the EU during the transition period based on an FTA, aiming to achieve a deal similar to that which Canada has with the EU, but with zero tariffs and zero quotas (CETA-plus). The Government is committed to keeping the UK out of the single market and out of any form of customs union. Businesses will need to prepare for life outside both at the end of 2020.



Workforce

NEW – The UK is introducing a points-based immigration system from 2021. The Home Office has created this page which will be updated with the latest information about the new points-based immigration system. You can also sign up for email alerts. [New immigration system: what you need to know.](#)



Trader readiness

NEW – The Competition and Markets Authority has published guidance on its functions under the Withdrawal Agreement. The guidance is intended for businesses and their legal advisors but may also be of interest to other enforcers. [UK Exit from the EU: Guidance on the functions of the CMA under the Withdrawal Agreement.](#)

NEW - The Department for International Trade have published guidance to help you find out which trade agreements with non-EU countries are in place during and after the transition period. [UK trade agreements with non-EU countries.](#)

NEW - The Department for Exiting the European Union produced guidance on International Agreements with third countries during the transition period. [International Agreements with Third Countries during the Transition Period.](#)

NEW – Companies House has produced guidance to help you find out whether your business will need to change its company registration from 1 January 2021, and how to do this. [Changing your company registration from 1 January 2021.](#)

Updates from the Intellectual Property Office:

NEW– The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance on actions that parallel exporters to the EEA and intellectual property rights holders will need to take after the transition period. [Exhaustion of IP rights and parallel trade from 1 January 2021.](#)

NEW - The Intellectual Property Office has produced information on trademarks, designs, patents, copyright, and exhaustion of IP rights during the transition period. [Intellectual property and the transition period.](#)

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance for businesses and organisations holding EU trademarks at the end of the transition period. [EU trademark protection and comparable UK trademarks.](#)

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance for business holding registered community designs and international trademarks and designs after the end of the transition period. [Changes to EU and international designs and trade mark protection from 1 January 2021.](#)

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance for businesses who have unregistered community designs. [Changes to unregistered designs from 1 January 2021](#)

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance on how protection in the EU for databases produced in the UK will change after the end of the transition period. [Sui generis database rights from 1 January 2021.](#)

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance covering the impacts on UK right holders, businesses, cultural heritage institutions and consumers. It is not legal advice. [Changes to copyright law from 1 January 2021](#).

NEW – The Intellectual Property Office has produced guidance on international trademark registrations protected in the EU under the Madrid Protocol will no longer enjoy protection in the UK after the transition period. [Changes to international trade mark registrations from 1 January 2021](#).



Useful Links

- [Gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) provides a central hub of resources for the transition period
- You can sign up to email alerts about the transition period on GOV.UK at this [link](#).
- EU citizens and other interested stakeholders can sign up for Home Office email updates about developments on the status of EU citizens in the UK after we leave the EU and the next steps for EU citizens in the UK at this [link](#).