



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 13 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](mailto:anisha.visram@beis.gov.uk).

### **Controls at the border**

On Monday the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster confirmed the Government's plans to introduce full import controls for goods moving into and out of the EU after the transition period ends on 31 December 2020.

This means that all goods entering the UK from the EU will be subject to the same checks and controls as goods coming from the rest of the world and that there will be new processes that UK exporters and importers of EU goods will have to comply with, whether we reach a new trade agreement or not. Please find the announcement [here](#).

To help businesses prepare for these changes HMRC have extended the deadline for businesses to apply for customs support funding to 31 January 2021. Please find the news story [here](#), and further information [here](#).

### **Free Ports consultation**

A public consultation on Freeports policy has been launched and will last for ten weeks.

It is proposed that up to 10 Freeports will be introduced across the UK, which will be national hubs for trade, innovation and commerce. The Government's aim is for Freeports to attract new businesses, jobs, investment and opportunity.

You can find more information and respond to the consultation [here](#). The consultation will close by **20 April 2020**.

## **UK global tariff regime consultation**

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, the Government is seeking views on the UK's future Global Tariff Regime. The consultation is open now and will close at **11:59pm on 5 March 2020**.

We would encourage you to respond to the consultation, which can be found [here](#).

## **Coronavirus update**

The Government and the Department of Health are taking precautionary measures to respond to the on-going coronavirus outbreak. The NHS and wider health system are extremely well prepared for these types of outbreaks and follow tried and tested procedures of the highest standards to protect staff, patients and the public.

To relieve potential pressures on global supply chains, suppliers have been asked to carry out a risk assessment on the impact of coronavirus on their business, and to retain existing stockpiles of medical supplies, compiled as a contingency measure ahead of our exit from the EU, where possible. There is no need for the public or NHS to stockpile.

Please find further information [here](#).



## **Trader readiness**

**NEW** - The Department for International Trade has launched a free digital tool, called 'Check How to Export Goods', to give businesses the information they need to export goods out of the UK market. It will help businesses, particularly SMEs, trade with over 160 markets by providing up to date information and guidance on what they need to know and do in order to export goods. Please find it [here](#).

Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.

**NEW** - The Department for International Trade and Export Joint Control Unit have published a notice of the current export licensing arrangements which will continue to apply until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. [Notice to exporters 2020/03: exporting and trading items subject to strategic controls during the transition period.](#)

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.](#)



## **Useful Links**

- [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](#).