

Transition period: letter to the professional and business services sector

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Last updated 24 November 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 24 November 2020

Minor update to the recognition of professional qualifications text to make it clearer that different rules will apply in each EU Member State.

2. 18 November 2020

First published.

Transition period: letter to the retail sector

The letter from the Business Secretary was sent to businesses in the retail sector. It provides tailored advice on what key actions businesses must take after the transition period ends on 31 December 2020. The letters contain QR codes and URLs which direct readers to GOV.UK, where they can view the online transition checker, sector specific webinars and access further guidance.

The letter was sent with a leaflet that provides further information about the new rules from 1 January 2021.

Hauliers get border-ready with 45 new information and advice sites

- 45 information and advice sites to prepare hauliers for the end of the transition period are now open across the UK
- sites will offer hauliers one-to-one training on the new procedures coming into place, with support available in 13 different languages

- Haulier Handbook now available on GOV.UK acting as a one-stop-shop for key information and advice

This week [45 information and advice sites have opened across the UK](#) to make sure hauliers have everything they need to prepare for the end of the transition period.

The COVID-secure sites, which are located at key motorway service stations and truck stops across the UK road network, offer hauliers one-to-one training on the new '[Check an HGV' service](#)' and upcoming changes to border processes that come into effect at the end of the transition period. The training will be available in up to 13 languages to provide support to hauliers from a range of EU countries.

This roll-out follows the success of 5 pilot sites that were opened earlier this month. In just under 2 weeks, these sites have already helped almost 7000 visiting hauliers with 100s taking part in one-to-one training on the new processes.

Hauliers visiting any one of the 45 information and advice sites will be met by one of the 1000 staff members who will be on hand to answer questions and walk them through the documents they will need to keep travelling to, from and through Europe. Those who require additional information on how to use the 'Check an HGV' service will be able to make use of onsite offices for further training if required.

Alongside this, the [Haulier Handbook](#) has today (18 November 2020) been published on the GOV.UK website. The handbook, which will also be translated into 13 different languages, acts as a one-stop-shop to provide key information and advice on customs procedures, clearly setting out how hauliers can prepare themselves, their vehicles and their goods to continue travelling smoothly across the GB-EU border and help minimise disruption.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

Hauliers play a vital role in keeping trade and businesses running on a daily basis, which is why we've put significant measures in place to ensure they're prepared for the new customs procedures – including a multi-million-pound information campaign.

Opening these sites and publishing the Haulier Handbook is just another example of the work we're doing to get hauliers border ready for the end of the transition period.

Road Haulage Association Chief Executive, Richard Burnett said:

With only weeks to go, it's crucial that hauliers do everything they can now to prepare for new trading rules.

Deal or no deal, firms will have to undertake customs processes to

continue moving goods across borders from 1 January.

These sites are part of a wider information campaign that prepares hauliers for the new customs procedures coming into place at the end of the transition period. The campaign, launched in October, utilises radio, press and digital advertising to ensure that hauliers have the correct documentation for each stage of their journey, reducing the risk of delays at the border.

New antibiotic-resistant infections rise to 178 per day in England

The [antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) report](#), published at the start of [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week](#) (WAAW), 18 to 24 November, shows there were an estimated 65,162 AMR infections diagnosed in 2019, up from 61,946 in 2018.

E. coli remains the most common bloodstream infection, rising 14% from 68.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2015 to 77.5 in 2019.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to the drugs designed to kill them – it can cause serious complications, including bloodstream infections and hospitalisation.

Public Health England (PHE) is urging people to help tackle AMR by taking their doctor, pharmacist or nurse's advice to only take antibiotics when needed.

The continuing rise in AMR bloodstream infections is a significant concern, rising by a third (32%) since 2015 – with AMR linked to 1 in 5 people with a key bacterial bloodstream infection. Antibiotic-resistant bloodstream infections have increased from 13,671 in 2015 to over 18,000 in this year's report.

Antibiotics are vital to the treatment of bacterial infections such as pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis. They also help to protect against infection during chemotherapy, caesarean sections and other major surgeries.

However, they are sometimes used to treat coughs, earache and sore throats where they may have little or no effect.

When antibiotics are used and overused, the bacteria they are meant to kill can adapt and develop resistance, making these life-saving medicines ineffective when they are most needed.

The new report shows that antibiotic consumption continues to fall year-on-year. In 2019, total consumption fell to 17.9 defined daily doses per 1,000 people per day, compared to 19.4 in 2015.

This is driven by a continued decrease in general practices, where most antibiotics continue to be prescribed, as well as in the dental sector. GPs have been supported to reduce their prescribing through antimicrobial stewardship interventions and NHS improvement schemes.

Hospitals and other community settings have seen increases in antibiotic prescribing. This is because bloodstream infections, which must be treated with antibiotics, are on the rise and are generally treated in these settings.

Isabel Oliver, Director of National Infection Service at PHE, said:

We want the public to join us in tackling AMR – listen to your GP, pharmacist or nurse's advice and only take antibiotics when necessary.

It's worrying that more infections are becoming resistant to these life-saving medicines. Taking antibiotics when you don't need them can have grave consequences for you and your family's health, now and in the future.

WAAW aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practice among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

VMD Regulatory Science Strategy – we would like your views

News story

VMD's Regulatory Science Strategy, a stakeholder consultation with feedback requested by 31 January 2021.



We are sharing with stakeholders the VMD's proposals for a strategy to ensure the VMD keeps abreast of, and anticipates, future technological advances and novel approaches so that we are well equipped to address the scientific and regulatory challenges that will arise over the next 10 years.

The [Regulatory Science Strategy](#) (PDF, 295KB, 24 pages) will bolster the scientific basis underlying the regulation of veterinary medicines to ensure safe and effective medicines continue to be available to protect animal and human health and the environment.

We would like feedback on whether stakeholders agree with our priorities and if you have suggestions for other areas where we should focus our efforts.

Please provide any feedback or comments to g.clarke@vmd.gov.uk by 31 January 2021.

A [presentation on the Regulatory Science Strategy](#) will be available on our YouTube channel as part of our Joint VMD and VPC Open Information Day.

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