

ARE YOU BREXIT READY?



Are you prepared for Brexit?

There are a number of preparations your business can make in advance of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. The Brexit SME Scorecard <https://prepareforbrexit.virtual-adviser.com/> is a great starting point to help businesses to begin preparing a strategy and ready their teams in terms of planning and shining a spotlight on some of the key operational areas that may be exposed.

Your local Enterprise Office has a large number of resources and information available to support small business please visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/>

Currency

Currency movements can be sudden and large, as we saw with sterling in the wake of the Brexit referendum. The Currency Risk Management Booklet <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Documents-and-Publications/Currency-Risk-Management-Booklet-pdf.pdf> provides guidance to small firms on how to assess and manage their exposure to foreign currency risk.

Customs implications of trading with the UK

If you trade with the United Kingdom (UK) post-Brexit, the rules of trade with a non-European Union (EU) country will apply. The online Customs Insights course <https://www.prepareforbrexit.com/customs-insights-course/> helps businesses understand the key customs concepts, documentation and processes required to succeed in a post Brexit world. The course will give learners a firm understanding of customs, the implications for their business and the options from Revenue that are available to make the customs process more efficient.

If you are trading in goods to or from the UK, an Economic Operators Registration identification (EORI) is required to be entered on a customs declaration. In the post-Brexit environment, all goods movements involving the UK will require a customs declaration. To register for an EORI number go to the Revenue Online Service or for further guidance see <https://www.revenue.ie/en/customs-traders-and-agents/brexit/index.aspx> For more information on moving goods through a non-EU country, please visit <https://www.revenue.ie/en/customs-traders-and-agents/brexit/trade-with-the-uk/index.aspx>

If you have a specific query in relation to Brexit and customs matters, please email brexitqueries@revenue.ie with the relevant details.

Funding

- The new Brexit Loan Scheme, which was announced in the 2018 budget, will provide affordable financing to businesses that are either currently impacted by Brexit or will be in the future. The Scheme, which will be delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) through commercial lenders will make €300 million available to eligible businesses with up to 499 employees at an interest rate of 4% or less. See <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/Brexit-Loan-Scheme-Information-Pack-Oct-2018.pdf>
- Start To Plan Voucher Scheme (through Inter TradeIreland) offers SMEs advice and guidance to help navigate their way through Brexit. The vouchers offer 100% financial supports of up to €2,000/€2,250 (inclusive of VAT), towards professional advice in relation to Brexit matters. This support can help businesses get advice on specific issues, such as the movement of labour, goods, services, customs, logistics and financial issues such as VAT and currency management. See <https://intertradeireland.com/brexit/brexit-start-to-plan-vouchers/>
- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme is designed to assist small businesses. It offers financial assistance of up to €2,500 along with training and advice to help your business trade online. Participating in this scheme can make the process of trading online much easier for you. See <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Trading-Online-Voucher-Scheme-/>
- The Technical Assistance for Micro-Exporters (TAME) grant supports LEO clients to explore and develop new export market opportunities. This scheme is a matched funding opportunity with up to €2,500 available to eligible businesses. Under the scheme costs incurred when investigating, researching and accessing export markets can be part funded. See <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/Technical-Assistance-for-Micro-Enterprises.pdf>
- Local Enterprise Offices offer a number of other finance supports see <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/LEO-Financial-Instruments.pdf> for more information.
- Microfinance Ireland offers loan funding up to €25,000 to both new and existing small businesses in the Republic of Ireland. See <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/MicroFinance-Ireland-Loans.pdf> for more information.

Notified Bodies

After Brexit, companies in Ireland will no longer be able to rely on UK-based Notified Bodies to undertake third party conformity assessments required under relevant EU law. They will instead need to source an EU-based Notified Body legally designated to carry conformity assessments. A list of Notified Bodies is available here <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/>

Irish businesses are also advised that:

- Products imported from the UK post-Brexit need to be EU compliant.
- Businesses need to understand the vulnerabilities in their supply chains. They need to know the full supply chain for all their products (machinery, chemicals, etc.) and how it is linked to the UK, including via distributors.
- Irish companies sourcing their product from the UK after Brexit may become an EU importer with additional legal responsibilities for compliance of the product with EU law.
- When UK leaves, UK registrations, authorization or notifications under REACH and CLP will not be valid. This means the role of businesses in Ireland may change from being a downstream user of chemicals to an importer.

The European Commission has published an important and useful Q&A for businesses here https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/qa_brexit_industrial_products_en.pdf which sets out guidance in relation to industrial goods on the Union market and the legal position and requirements after Brexit.

GDPR - Transfer of personal data to the UK

The UK will become a third country after Brexit which means that in order to transfer personal data to the UK, a legal transfer mechanism must be in place so that the personal data is safeguarded when it goes from Ireland to the UK. What this means in practice is that if you use a UK based data processor, for example a payroll provider or have employees in Northern Ireland you will need to factor this in for your Brexit preparations.

The Data Protection Commission advise that the best option is to use a standard data protection clause to legally transfer personal data to the UK. The Data Protection Commission will be producing a template standard data protection clause in the coming days.

Additional supports

The AIB Brexit Ready Check, open to all, helps you understand how Brexit will affect your business. In less than five minutes you can get a risk assessment of the effect Brexit may, or may not have on your business and get practical advice to help you understand those risks. Please visit <https://business.aib.ie/my-business-is/brexit-support>

Further advice for businesses on how to prepare for Brexit and information on the suite of Government supports available, please visit:

- www.prepareforbrexit.ie
- www.intertradeireland.com
- www.hsa.ie
- www.nsai.ie