Key Messages of the Joint Customs Consultative Committee Group Meeting

Monday 13th July 2026 10:30 to 12:35

Chairs:
Jon – Paul Brett (JPB), Customs Policy and Strategy, JCCC HMRC Chair.
Anna Doherty (AD) (CIoE&IT) JCCC Industry Chair.

Welcome from JCCC Chairs: Jon-Paul Brett (**JPB**) HMRC Chair & Anna Doherty (**AD**) Industry Chair

JPB acknowledged the interest in steel quotas and confirmed that policy colleagues would be available to support during AoB.

JPB also flagged the imminent publication of the response to the Low Value Imports (LVI) consultation alongside draft primary legislation.

Customs Modernisation Call for Evidence - Sarah MacLean (SM), Jack Trillo (JT), Gavin McCann (GM), Tola Osho (TO) (HMRC)

(*Please refer to slide presentation* – Call for Evidence on Customs Modernisation)

SM introduced the Call for Evidence on Customs Modernisation which is open until 15th September 2026.

The Call for Evidence was broken down into three chapters:

- **Future of Trade**
- **Future of Data**
- **Future of Trust**

Under Future of Trade **JT** explained that the call for evidence looks at how international trade is changing and how the UK customs regime is adapting and if there are opportunities and challenges the UK customs regime can learn from overseas counterparts.

Under Future of Data GM said that it would focus on access to, and use of data. The call for evidence would look at UK customs data and how it aligns with businesses.

Under Future of Trust **AO** explained how the call for evidence would explore the Trusted Trader Model, and how it fits in the modern trading world.

SM flagged that the team were working closely with DBT and highlighted DBT's Smart Data call for evidence: Smart Data: multi-sector call for evidence - GOV.UK

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Industry Feedback:
AD asked if the Future of Trusted Trader and Authorisations would feed the work happening as part of the Authorisations and AEO Task & Finish group. **SM** confirmed that this call for evidence would feed into the Task & Finish group. **PJ** asked if the EU Customs Reform impacted on the approach. **SM** said that the team were aware of the EU reform and were monitoring it. **AD** asked if the responses to the Low Value Imports (LVI) consultation could inform this call for evidence. **SM** said that she would talk to the LVI team. **AD** asked if the call for evidence covered all customs aspects including declarations. **SM** replied that everything was covered, end to end. **IP** Flagging the term 'customs data' IP asked if this was linked to Single Trade Window (STW). **SM** replied that STW was separate to this work. **JC** added that STW was influenced by this work but was quite separate, relevant findings from this call for evidence will be shared across teams. **AF** reported cynicism regarding the benefits, particularly the effort that goes into obtaining AEO status with no perceived benefits. **SM** Replied that all feedback was welcome. **KR** asked what the next steps would be after consultation. **SM** responded that there would be a formal response 12 weeks after closure of the consultation. **KR** observed that the call for evidence was wide ranging but cautioned that issues with existing customs systems needed fixing now. **SM** acknowledged that while this was a long term project, short term issues did need fixing and asked that these views are raised in response to the call for evidence. If anyone has any further questions, they are invited to contact the team via: customsmodernisation@hmrc.gov.uk The call for evidence can be seen here: Customs Modernisation - GOV.UK

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Mandatory Registration for Customs Intermediaries Consultation - Mark McGuire (MM), Dipayan Chakraborty (DC), Dewan Choudhury (DC2) (HMRC)

(*Please refer to slide presentation* – Customs Intermediaries: Introduction of Mandatory Registration*)*

MM outlined the reasons for the introduction of mandatory registration, citing while the majority of customs intermediaries are high quality there remain concerns over a minority of poor actors in the intermediary sector. The aim was to establish baseline requirements to act as a customs intermediary while ensuring a proportionate approach.
This will be a UK wide framework, focussed on parties submitting declarations for other entities.

DP summarised the high level model, listing the baseline criteria:

- tax affairs up to date,
- not subject to refusal to deal with,
- not disqualified to act as director of a company,
- not insolvent,
- no unspent criminal conviction,
- do not have a history of serious customs non-compliance.

MM encouraged members to engage in the consultation which closes on 21st September 2026. Further engagement in the form of webinars is planned. To attend these, or for more information the team can be contacted at mailto:customsintermediariesconsultation@hmrc.gov.uk

Industry Feedback:
AD asked if the aim was that without a registration there would be no access to CDS. **DC** confirmed that that was the case. **MA** suggested the registration looked like an 'authorisation'. **MM** agreed that it was similar, but that there were no 'facilitations' attached. **MA** observed that the criteria were straightforward but asked if they would become more stringent in the future. **MM** confirmed that these were baseline criteria but welcomed feedback from stakeholders. **MA** expressed frustration with unknown declarants appearing in MSS/TRE data and suggested that there should be some means of restricting the use of EORI numbers. **MM** said that he would put that into the consultation despite being beyond the current scope. **DH** asked what would happen if the registered intermediary was sold. **MM** advised that the new entity could apply for registration. **DH** asked if this registration was aligned with other registration requirements. **MM** confirmed that it was aligned with tax accountant registration. **GC** asked if it included software standards. **MM** replied that that there was a separate stream on software standards. **DH** asked if there was a competency requirement in the standards. **MM** answered that there wasn't, but he would bear the concept in mind.

AD asked if 'legal establishment was factored into the standards. **MM** said that establishment was being looked at.

India Entry into Force Update - Alice Almazan (AA), Okkor Habibi (OH), Rachel Spiegelhalter (RS) (Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade BIST)

(*Please refer to slide presentation* – 260710 JCCC)

RS outlined the benefits of the UK-India FTA signposting guidance. She recommended early registration via the UK-India FTA portal given implementation on 15th July 2026. All that is required is an EORI number, business name, and email address.

RS invited members to contact BIST, citing a Business Academy workshop on 15th July 2026, and upcoming webinars.

AA appealed for trade feedback on the UK-India FTA, inviting members to engage with BIST through the existing BIST Export Support Services.

Industry Feedback:
MA asked if CDS was configured and ready for FTA preference claims from India on the implementation date. ***JCCC Secretariat update***: Tariff leads confirmed no further systems changes were needed for CDS. **JM** asked for confirmation of UK treatment of post importation late claims to preference. **RS** provided the following link to guidance: **Rules of origin in India** **AA** offered her email address for targeted engagement, and for sharing feedback: Alice.Almazan@businessandtrade.gov.uk Businesses encountering market access barriers in India were invited to engage with BIST via their Export Support Services Report a Market Access Barrier service **IP** asked if there were any changes including extra steps or additional codes for the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). **RS** confirmed a phasing out period. (See JCCC Secretariat update below.) **AF** thanked the BIST team for a great presentation.

***JCCC Secretariat update*: BIST provided the following information on the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA):**

Under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), preference is claimed using an origin declaration, or a Form A (that need not be certified unless specifically required by the authorities in the country of origin), both of which must follow specific prescribed wording, as per the guidance copied here: *How to claim preferences under the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) – GOV.UK*.

Separately, India has signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the UK. Where traders wish to claim preference under the CETA, they must comply with the CETA-specific rules of origin and proof of origin requirements.

It is important to note that:

- DCTS and CETA preferences are not interchangeable, and
- A DCTS Form A or origin declaration cannot be used to claim preference under the CETA, and vice versa.

To claim preference under the CETA, traders must use the proofs of origin set out in that agreement (for example, a CETA-compliant origin declaration or certificate of origin) and ensure these meet the relevant requirements.

DCTS countries, such as India, who sign a separate trade agreement with the UK have a two-year transition period to support business continuity and ensure a smooth transition. This means once the UK-India CETA is enters into force, exporters in India can continue to export under the terms of the DCTS for the following two years during which time, at any point, they can transition to the CETA once their goods comply with the product specific rules. At the expiration of the transition period DCTS preferences will no longer be available on imports originating from India into the UK

To claim preferences under the CETA, exporters and importers must comply with the customs and origin declaration requirements and rules of origin set out in the CETA – please see guidance here. For imports into the UK a DCTS origin declaration or Form A will not be an acceptable proof of origin evidence to claim preferences under the CETA and vice versa.

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Deforestation and Subsequent Confirmation on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) Update - Ella Beckett (EB) (DEFRA), Simon Lawrence (SL) (Cabinet Office)

EB reminded members of the EUDR announcement on 23rd June 2026 and confirmed that EUDR will apply in NI.
EB outlined the main commodities EUDR would apply to with a phased approach to mirror the EU.

EUDR would apply to large and medium sized businesses from 30th December 2026. EUDR would apply to micro and smaller businesses for wood products only from that date. Full implementation will commence on 30th June 2027.

For GB, consultation on the approach will take place later in 2026.

Industry Feedback:
MA cited that it had taken his business three years to get ready for EUDR. It appeared that DEFRA expected businesses to be ready within six months. **EB** acknowledged that this was challenging. DEFRA was aligning with NI/EU timescales. **MA** asserted that the amount of work to produce a due diligence statement was unrealistic for compliance. **SL** recognised the challenged and assured that Government would support businesses. **AF** echoed MA's comments and asked about B to C parcel movements. **SL** responded that parcels would be included in guidance due to be published that week.

***JCCC Secretariat update*: DEFRA provided the following update:**

- EUDR will apply from 30 December 2027, if your business trades newly added palm oil-derived products, including soap and other hygiene products, soluble coffee and frozen cattle tongues covered by the EU's final delegated act of the regulation

Systems Update (Standing Item) – Dan Arnold (DA) HMRC

DA reported that systems have been stable since the last JCCC meeting. There was an issue with the Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS) on 22nd June which was investigated and resolved. CDS release 5.2 was successful, with a reduced outage.

Industry Feedback:
AF asked if there was anything further needed to inform members. **DA** said he would check if there was any further to report.

JCCC Secretariat update**:** On Friday 17th July 2026 the Secretariat issued comms with a CDS 'forward look' document

Northern Ireland (NI) Update (Standing Item) – Mark Brown (MB) HMRC

MB advised that private beta on the new Trader Support Service (TSS) – operated by Netcompany - had started the previous week. Guidance and training would be provided for the transition.

New EU steel measures had been implemented on 1st July 2026 with quotas at 50%. NI steel notices had been updated.

Also the previous week, the NI Duty Reimbursement Scheme had been updated to permit bulk claims for commodities subject to anti-dumping duty and countervailing duty up to a value of £1000. Online guidance had been updated.

AOB: Jon-Paul Brett (**JPB**) HMRC Chair

AD reported that for the changes to quotas for steel members had not expressed any concerns and in fact their comments on the implementation were complementary. Key interests were having sufficient data to facilitate clearance and a desire for greater visibility of impending quotas.

PE responded that there was a quick turnaround in the on line tariff tool (OLTT) with quotas being updated at 13:00 every day.

AD asked if there was any update on the Uk-US Economic Prosperity Deal.

***JCCC Secretariat update*: DBT advises that discussions on the UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal continue, which look at addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers, increasing digital and services trade, and unlocking new commercial opportunities that benefit both nations.**

AF said that she was pleased that the results of the Low Value Imports (LVI) consultation, plus the primary legislation were coming out but advised the businesses would need at least 18 months to implement the scheme.