

The Windsor Framework

A new agreement - The Windsor Framework - aimed at addressing post-Brexit issues in Northern Ireland was revealed by the UK Government and the European Commission in February 2023.

It delivers free-flowing trade in goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland by removing any sense of the border in the Irish Sea for goods staying within the UK. These goods will travel as normal through a new green lane without red tape or unnecessary checks, with the only checks remaining designed to prevent smuggling or crime.

The agreement protects Northern Ireland, replacing swathes of EU laws with UK laws and ensuring the people of Northern Ireland can benefit from the same tax policies, food and drink, medicines, and parcels as the rest of the UK.

What impact will the Windsor Framework have?

Under the new plan, goods arriving into Northern Ireland from Great Britain will go into a new "green line" and will require less paperwork. Meanwhile, goods destined for Ireland and the EU will go to the "red line" where checks will be carried out.

This Framework means that businesses moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will:

- avoid extensive and costly certification and assurance processes
- be able to **move products** that meet UK public health, organics and fisheries rules
- access the **duty reimbursement scheme**
- access an improved **Customs Duty Waiver Scheme**
- have continued access to the free **Trader Support Service**

Key dates for implementation are as follows:

- **30 September 2023** - a new UK Internal Market Scheme will expand the range of businesses able to benefit from the new arrangements provided to protect internal UK movements, including the removal of EU tariffs. In tandem, the new sanitary and phytosanitary "green lane" arrangements will take effect: including a new Retail Movement Scheme for agrifood retail products; new rules to allow plants to move smoothly in to Northern Ireland; and new arrangements to enable seed potatoes to move once again from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

- **September 2024** - the full “green lane” will take effect for the movement of all goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, expanding the benefits of the UK Internal Market Scheme to end unnecessary bureaucracy. This will ensure that goods will no longer move on the basis of international customs requirements, with a new system based on commercial information. New arrangements will also come into effect for the movement of parcels between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with a new set of data-sharing requirements put in place to ensure that customs declarations are not needed for deliveries to consumers.
- **2025** - new arrangements for the supply of medicines into Northern Ireland will take effect, ensuring that medicines available in Northern Ireland are those approved by UK authorities, enabling a single license and a single pack for medicines right across the United Kingdom.

Guidance

- **GOV UK - The Windsor Framework** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-windsor-framework>
- **European Commission - The Windsor Framework: Factsheet** - https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_23_1272

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