

UK Brexit Technical Notice: Existing free trade agreements if there's no Brexit deal Government of Jersey Response

Summary of Technical Notice

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 without a deal, we will seek to:

- replicate the effects of existing EU agreements with other countries as far as possible
- activate these agreements from exit day where possible

The full text of the technical notice can be found here.

Response

This Technical Notice provides information about the UK Government's plans to ensure continuity for the UK's existing trade agreements with partners outside the EU should the UK leave the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal.

In the event of a 'no deal', the UK Government will seek to bring into force bilateral UK-third country agreements from exit day, or as soon as possible thereafter. As set out in the UK Technical Notice, these new agreements will replicate existing EU agreements and the same preferential effects with third countries as far as possible, whilst making the technical changes needed to ensure the agreements operate in a bilateral context. It is intended that, insofar as they currently apply to Jersey, this will continue under the replicated bilateral agreements.

Where EU trade agreements fail to be replicated by 'exit day', trade between the UK and the given partner jurisdiction will take place in accordance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) 'Most Favoured Nation' rules. Territorial extension of the UK's WTO membership to Jersey is currently under consideration as part of the Government of Jersey's contingency planning. Depending on the outcome of future trade negotiations, this could assist in promoting and protecting the Island's economic relationships with both EU and non-EU markets.

One of the Government of Jersey's key Brexit objectives is to ensure Jersey has the right agreements and international relationships to benefit from global opportunities. The Government of Jersey continues to engage with counterparts in the UK to ensure the Island's interests are fully understood and taken into account, where relevant, in the UK's plans for its future trading relationships with both the EU and third countries post Brexit.

Further practical information about the impacts of a 'no deal' scenario on trade, tariffs, border arrangements and other related considerations can be found in supporting UK and Jersey Technical Notices.