

EU Transition Briefing

**Growth and Economic Development
Cabinet Committee - 18th January 2021**

Transition Update

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Recap

- Information offered at All Members briefing – 1st December and County Council on 10th December
- And then the French decision on 20th December
- Full border closures for 48 hours with a closing window of Christmas
- New and unexpected border checks for all travellers inc HGV drivers

Summary of Activity

- Manston stood up.
- M20 Brock switched on
- Driver welfare - 24,000 meals provided as well as 54 pallets of food, wipes, sanitiser and 40 pallets of water
- Great response from many inc Khalsa Aid, Guru Navak Gurdwara, Muslim Charities Forum, Langar Aid, Imperial Hotel, Southeastern.

Summary continued

- Xxx HGVs/LGVs
- Testing regime set up at Manston and on M20 and at Lydden for LGVs
- Over 14,000 tests administered between 23rd and 25th December
- And we had Storm Bella!

Key Lessons

- Keeping Dover Clear
- Driver welfare
- LGVs/passengers
- Communications

Since 1 January 2021

- Very low level of HGVs but increasing now
- All sites up and running but includes testing at Manston and Sevington
- Green lane on M20 and through Manston
- Upstream testing to become a legal requirement
- Prioritised freight

Enforcement

- Statutory Instruments in play
- KAP offences
- M20 Brock offences
- Enforcement of anti socially parked HGVs up and running – warning and informing in first week and now enforcing with clamping - 192 HGVs clamped by 15/1.

Recent Developments

- Legal regulations being revised to take account of testing and prioritised freight – expected to come into by end of week
- Congestion at Waterbrook – more demand, now managing flow better
- National drive on HGV testing and getting ready out of Kent
- DfT led Strategic Development Order for Whitecliffs site underway and consultation runs until 2nd February

Trading Standards

- **Trading Standards Brexit Campaign** comprising
 - Use of **Social Media** (Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn) which reached 344,951
 - **KMTV infomercial** which has run 36 times and reached 86,000
 - **4 live online events** with the Growth Hub in Nov/Dec attracting 126 Kent businesses, with 235 business viewing the recording of the event
- **Total reach** for the Trading Standards Brexit Campaign so far is 431,186.
- Focus is moving to importers as they need to be ready for July

Trading Standards (Cont'd)

- EU transition webpage on kent.gov.uk as well as press editorial.
- Direct business advice on EU exit was very limited but increased since November – key issue has been around the requirement to have a representative established in EU (and what that means) and what needs to appear on products.
- Working with the Growth Hub, providing a Trading Standards Officer to give advice one day a week on both EU exit and Covid.
- Import work has reduced due to the low volumes of freight in Jan but expected to increase as freight numbers increase. The goods prevented from entering the UK - a total 323,601 items, including cosmetics, toys and electric lamps.

Impact of Brexit/Transition on ED Services

Trade Deal:

- Increasing number of calls to Business Help-line about Brexit impact, but only a small fraction of total number; most still concern the financial impact of Covid-lockdown.

Problems in obtaining Export Health Certificates for “products of animal-origin”:

- Representations made to DEFRA about lack of qualified personnel to issue certificates.

Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme:

- Following abolition of Free Movement of workers, Home Office and DEFRA policy severely restricts the number available to Kent’s fresh food and horticulture employers: Employment Task Force looking at solutions.