

**London Boroughs of Brent & Harrow
Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board
2 March 2022
Report from the Senior Service Manager**

FOR INFORMATION

PRIME MINISTER'S POLICY PAPER AND ITS IMPACT ON TRADING STANDARDS

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an introduction to the Prime Minister's policy paper 'The Benefit of Brexit: How the UK is taking advantage of Leaving the EU' and its potential impacts on Trading Standards.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Joint Advisory Board Members consider the report and note how this may impact on our work priorities.

3.0 Details

- 3.1 The Prime Minister's policy paper 'The Benefit of Brexit: How the UK is taking advantage of Leaving the EU ¹' was published on 31 January 2022.
- 3.2 The policy explains how government intends to capitalise on the benefits of Brexit and how the intended new freedoms will transform the UK into the best regulated economy in the world.
- 3.3 This report will provide members with a simple overview of the 105 page policy highlighting some of the potential impacts on Brent & Harrow Trading Standards Service and how this may influence our priorities. Members wishing to obtain more detail of the policy paper, can view its full contents via the link found at the footnote below.
- 3.4 The policy details government's intention for the UK to be 'The Best Regulated Economy in the World' and to hold a global reputation. Government wants to make sure that the UK regulatory system is set up in the right way for future changes so that it can take full advantage of new freedoms and to comprehensively review and assess the EU laws that have been retained to ensure they are right for the UK.
- 3.5 Government's 'Plan for Growth' sets out four objectives for the UK's approach to regulatory reform which includes:
- Unlocking cutting-edge technologies

¹ [The Benefits of Brexit: How the UK is taking advantage of leaving the EU \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Modernising our approach
- Cutting red tape
- Minimising burdens; and boosting competition

3.6 In support of these objectives, government has detailed five new regulatory principles:

- A sovereign approach. We will use our new freedoms to follow a distinctive approach based on UK law, protected by independent UK regulators and designed to strengthen UK markets.
- Leading from the front. Focus on the future, shaping and supporting the development of new technologies and creating new markets.
- Proportionality. Where markets achieve the best outcomes, we will let them move freely and dynamically. We will pursue non-regulatory options where we can. When strong rules are required to achieve the best outcomes, we will act decisively to put them in place and enforce them vigorously.
- Recognising what works. We will thoroughly analyse our interventions based on the outcomes they produce in the real world and where regulation does not achieve its objectives or does so at unacceptable cost, we will ensure it is revised or removed.
- Setting high standards at home and globally. We will set high standards at home and engage in robust regulatory diplomacy across the world, leading in multilateral settings, influencing the decisions of others and helping to solve problems that require a global approach.

3.7 The policy paper looks at different business sectors and explains how government intends to achieve its vision within them. For the purposes of this report, we have identified the subject areas most relevant to Trading Standards functions and those which are likely to impact on our Service:

3.7.1 Reviewing the EU ban on imperial markings and sales. To give businesses and consumers more choice over the measurements they use. Imperial units like pounds and ounces are widely valued in the UK and are a core part of many people's British identity.

3.7.2 Enabling businesses to use a crown stamp symbol on pint glasses. The Crown Stamp is a proud emblem of our heritage that people remain fond of. Government have begun the process of allowing it to be used once again, a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

3.7.3 Reviewing our Product Safety Regime. Government will consult this year on changes to the EU derived framework for product safety.

3.7.4 A robust regulatory system for the control of chemicals. In December 2021, government announced they will explore alternative arrangements for UK REACH transitional registrations, alongside extending registration deadlines. These provisions require businesses to register chemicals that they manufacture or supply to the market in Great Britain.

3.7.5 Reviewing Aviation Consumer Policy to improve the consumer rights

of air passengers. This is an area of particular interest to us following the two recent tour operator prosecutions that we have conducted as well as currently taking our first prosecution under the Package Travel and Linked Arrangements Regulations 2018. Government wishes to improve consumer confidence and developing trust in booking travel.

3.7.6 Setting a Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate. The end of the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2030 and all new cars and vans sold in the UK zero emission by 2035.

3.7.8 Ending the abhorrent, cruel practice of puppy smuggling and low - welfare pet imports. Government are reducing the number of pet dogs and cats that can be moved under the pet travel rules and bringing in powers to enable us to go even further to protect the welfare of our pets by introducing new import restrictions.

3.7.9 Online Safety. Through the Online Safety Bill, government will ensure a holistic solution to tackling online harms by addressing both illegal and legal but harmful material online.

3.7.10 Helping people to quit smoking. Government has launched a rapid independent review to identify which policies and regulatory reforms will be most impactful. They intend to set out proposals for regulatory reforms in a new Tobacco Control Plan due to be published later this year.

3.7.11 Helping consumers make green choices. Government is collecting views from UK industry and others towards a market for low emissions industrial products.

3.7.12 Ending the throw-away culture. Government says it will restrict the most damaging types of single-use items. This applies already to the restricted supply of plastic straws, cotton buds and drinks stirrers and government is consulting on banning single-use plastic plates, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene food and drink containers.

- 3.8 The policy paper contains a 'Local Authority' section recognising 'local government can effectively deliver priority services and empower communities'. Local authorities are identified as being key to delivering these changes.
- 3.9 The paper describes how Brexit has allowed the UK to better tailor laws, policies and regulations to support the interests of local people and local businesses and acknowledged local authorities are key to delivering those changes on behalf of their residents.
- 3.10 The Service shall continue to monitor these subject areas and will respond accordingly to any changes that are required. As well as communication received directly from government, we also maintain our memberships with the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officer (ACTSO) and the London Trading Standards (LTS) who provide a further source of resource as well as share examples of best practice.

3.11 Although the number of Brexit related enquires from businesses has dropped, our officers will keep abreast of future developments so as to ensure they continue to offer current and correct advice.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. It is possible that longer term changes deriving from this policy may have wider financial impacts to Trading Standards duties. These will be on a national basis and are not something that requires any local response at this time.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There is no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The proposals in this report have been screened to assess their relevance to equality and were found to have no equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 There is no requirement to specifically consult Ward Members about this report as this is a governmental policy that applies nationally.

8.0 Human Resources Implications

8.1 There are no human resource or property implications arising from this report.

Contact Officer

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