



**Borders & Trade
members meeting & update
November 2024**

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The Team



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November 2024



- Introduction & Competition Statement
- Public Affairs & Media
 - Budget announcements & HTA briefing
 - Northern Ireland visit & Hort Working Group
 - Plants in Parliament
 - Gardening & Horticulture Cross Party Group in Scotland
 - Peat – “10 minute rule” bill
 - SPS (Plant Health) Agreement work
 - Joint FPC letter to Minister
 - MP template letter
 - “The Guardian” article(s) & other media
- Technical / Operational
 - Plant Passport easement
 - Candidatus / prunus AD issue
 - Additional Declaration tool update
 - Mismatches & ALVS
 - Hauliers – examples of Sevington issues
 - Multidrop issue - 1CHED-PP – 1PC – 1 Delivery address
 - Plant Health Information Service
 - Large load derogation response
- Discussion / Q&A

Public Affairs



- Budget announcements & HTA briefing (<https://hta.org.uk/policy/member-briefings>)
- 10 minute rule motion on peat
- Plants in Parliament
- Gardening & Horticulture Cross Party Group in Scotland
- MP visits
- Northern Ireland visit & Hort Working Group



Public Affairs – “Borders” Activity

- SPS (Plant Health) Agreement work
 - Working with EU counterparts
 - Draft documents including MP briefing
 - What would we want?



- Joint FPC letter to Minister

<https://hta.org.uk/news/>

- MP template letter

<https://hta.org.uk/policy/member-briefings>

Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Fourth Floor
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Thursday 17th October 2024

Dear Baroness Hayman,

We write jointly as the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) and Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) following our roundtable meeting on plants, cut flowers and the border on 4th October 2024.

At that meeting you sought representations on solutions for the challenges and risks the UK's border policy is presenting to our sectors. As we set out, the trade in both edibles—like fresh fruits and vegetables—and non-edible plants—including cut flowers, planting materials, finished plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, and seeds—faces significant challenges. Rising logistics costs, damaged goods, delays, increased waste, and cumbersome paperwork have hindered our ability to invest in growth. This situation has led to reduced consumer choice, strained business relationships, a tarnished UK business reputation, diminished confidence in border processes, compromised food security, and setbacks in achieving our environmental targets.

10 Solutions – part 1



1. Urgent border summit, cross-govt, with businesses establishing an action plan
2. Ownership & oversight within Govt, halt reductions in Defra borders teams
3. Deliver reset of EU relations with an SPS/plant health agreement based on mutual recognition
4. Remove barriers to CP system & expedite AOS scheme, acknowledging BCPs are not fit for purpose
5. Review commodity risk categorisation for current “high-risk” products, cut flowers & seeds

10 solutions – part 2



6. Urgent action on communications & access to IPAFFS by all parties – publication of borders data & real-time alerts
7. Improve P&D testing capability at border with on-site labs at key BCPs, improve test times
8. Confirm PP easement extension beyond June 2025
9. Pause the CUC for 12 months & fully review the economic impact of the UK's borders policy
10. Give future certainty via international engagement that the UK govt is open for trade and give reassurance border ops will improve

Media



Business rails at 'chaos' and cost of post-Brexit border checks

Importers claim and plant inspection costs have risen

FOOD & DRINK industry

Jack Simpson

Tue 29 Oct 2024 06.00 GMT

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Customs agents and traders complained to the government they have been charged for goods that never took place a Brexit controls were imposed and plant imports from the EU. In an online meeting the officials from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), dozens of diagrams highlighted errors with the so-called "chaotic".

In one case, a consignee was not included in a government inspection facility at Don Kent because of a design. The inspection bay, yet the shipment was still charged for the import. Officials were told in the meeting that they paid for checks only to have their ab cleared by computer systems, however people who paid the fee. From April, a new charge will be imposed for the import through Dover and the Euro Tunnel, in order to recap of financing the government's border control post which will import.

Trade groups report that Bill Clinton (Brexit) have the idea of thousands of government businesses. The added costs have grown.

Post-Brexit border checks putting food security at risk, produce sellers warn

Im or

Post-Brexit checks will raise price of Christmas trees, warn importers

Jack Simpson

Under the border system introduced this year, plants deemed high risk, which include nearly all Christmas trees, require inspection in the country of origin, a clean bill of health - and British officials to be notified with the details before they can enter.

"You require all of this paperwork, and paperwork costs money. The checks cost money, that increases the cost of the product - and ultimately the consumer pays more," says Kortegeard, who has had to put the price up on all but one of the types of trees the company sells.

He says the new Brexit costs have played a major part in this, as well as the tightening of supply of Danish and other European trees as more growers have left the industry.

According to the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA), more than 8m festive conifers were sold in the UK in 2023.

Experts at the Guardian has spoken to believe between 20% and 40% of trees imported from the EU will be subject to post-Brexit checks on plants coming in from the EU that importers are warning will increase costs for sellers and are likely to push up prices for consumers.

"The main difference is that before January the bulk of trees imported didn't require health certificates. Now all the trees do," says Kasper Kortegeard, the managing director of Kortegeard, a Danish-based Christmas tree wholesaler.

"We've gone from being able to trade between the EU and the UK without any paperwork apart from an invoice to having to have customs declarations and now phytosanitary certificates etc."

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AD FEATURE

Menopause supplement makes hair and nails 'stronger' and 'improve...'

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North Korean soldiers 'gun down Russian comrades' in new Putin humiliation

New Lung Cleansing Spray Leaves Experts Speechless

Breathe Easier [Learn More](#)

EU countries moan extra UK border checks threaten £57bn industry as market in chaos

The extra security measures at UK borders have taken a toll on one EU sector, causing delays and extra costs for the industry.

By **HOLLY KINTUKA**, Reporter
16:57, Tue, Oct 8, 2024 | UPDATED: 09:27, Wed, Oct 9, 2024



Herald of Wales

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Home - The Welshman central to Labour's economic hopes

The Welshman central to Labour's economic hopes



IN BUDGET WEEK, the focus inevitably falls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, writes Jonathan Edwards

While Rachel Reeves is by far the most important political figure in UK politics when it comes to the economy, Turfyn IFF Jack Thomas-Symonds will be a pivotal figure if Labour is to achieve its ambitions.

This is not because Thomas-Symonds has the role of Paymaster General. When I looked at the UK government's website, I saw that that specific role had no responsibility. In fact, however, been given the greater job of Minister for EU Relations, specifically to repair the fractured relationship following Brexit.

Following a meeting with his EU counterpart Marco Salfus, Thomas-Symonds said:

"Our Government is committed to resetting the relationship with the European Union, to strengthen ties, reinforce our security and tackle barriers to trade."

The key bit is the last three words.

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Brexit has been an unmitigated economic disaster. The latest Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts published in March estimated the year-on-year hit at 0% of GDP. My maths says that in a range of between £150bn and £170bn loss in economic value every year. Exports and imports had fallen by 15%, and all the trade deals signed by the last UK Government had no impact as they effectively re-signed deals previously negotiated by the EU.

The basics of this are that living standards have stagnated, inflationary pressures have been more acute on goods and services, and tax receipts available for the Treasury are less than what they should have been, impacting the money available for investment in public services.

If we needed reminding of the extra trade barriers caused by Brexit, this week, the TFC (Trade Facilitation Committee) and the HTA (Distribution Trade Association) wrote a joint letter to the Chancellor complaining that new import checks were leading to significant delays and increased costs by up to 10% (previously passed onto consumers).

The joint letter reads:

everything inside the Bitly Connections Platform.

Border operations



- Candidatus / prunus AD issue
- Additional Declaration tool update
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Latest Technical



- Winter legislation changes
- Plant Passport easement
- Plant Health Information Service
- Large load derogation response

Please use our website!

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Policy

HTA: the voice of the industry

Whether it's working to ensure garden centres could remain open during lockdown, campaigning to bring about improvements to the system for import and export trade, or partnering with other organisations to establish the Growing Media Taskforce to ensure a smooth and fair transition away from peat, we support and nurture our industry to ensure a robust and sustainable future.

Making a difference

We engage with Governments across the UK - through advocacy and campaigning - to represent the industry and ensure that our members can prosper and grow.

Here you can find information on our past and current campaigns, stay up to date with legislation that will affect the industry and read the HTA's consultation responses.

The Value of Plants Documentation

From Nursery to Nature: The Value Of Plants Report
Click below to access the report that was presented at Horticulture, The Conference

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Delivering The UK'S Environmental Improvement Plan Through The Value Of Plants
Click below to download accompanying the policy paper

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Scottish Environmental Horticulture Growth Strategy

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Unlocking Green Growth

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Issues that matter

The UK is a nation of gardeners. Since March 2020, 3 million people have taken up gardening - nearly half of whom are under 45 - taking the total of regular gardeners to 30 million. The mental and physical benefits of being in nature-based spaces are well-established.

Supporting this growing nation of gardeners is an industry that drives local and national economic growth.

UK Horticulture

- Employs 674,200 people
- Contributes £28.8 billion in GDP
- Generates £6.3 billion in tax revenue
- Supports the delivery of 7 out of the 10 goals in the Environmental Improvement Plan



Thank you

Further info: hta.org.uk/policy
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