

POST & PARCELS



WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM UNDER THE OLD PROTOCOL?

All parcels moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland - between businesses or individuals - would be subject to full customs formalities under the Protocol, meaning customs declarations on millions of parcels per year.

This means that a grandmother sending a birthday present from Birmingham to her grandson in Belfast would be required to complete a customs declaration; or a teenager in Omagh doing online shopping could only buy goods from those retailers willing to complete full customs declarations to send goods to Northern Ireland (and may face increased costs for doing so).

There would also have been requirements to complete customs declarations for businesses or consumers sending parcels from Northern Ireland to Great Britain, despite these parcels clearly posing no risk to the EU.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN THIS AGREEMENT?

The agreement means unprecedented scrapping of customs processes for parcels.

People can send a letter or parcel to a friend or family member in Northern Ireland without any customs processes or extra costs, just as they would sending to someone in Great Britain.

Northern Ireland consumers ordering from GB businesses can continue to order and receive goods through the post, same as the rest of the UK - again, with no customs declaration required.

Parcels sent between businesses will move smoothly through the green lane without complex international customs procedures, where the goods are remaining in the UK, just like goods moving between GB and NI by freight. This removes the risk of widespread disruption and costs for businesses in Northern Ireland reliant on those deliveries.

It will be business as usual for sending parcels from Northern Ireland to Great Britain - scrapping the export declarations demanded under the old Protocol.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

Parcels can be sent between consumers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland without any additional requirements for the sender or receiver.

Parcels being sent by a business in GB to a consumer in Northern Ireland can move freely without any additional requirements for the consumer. Parcel operators will work closely with HMRC to ensure any risks to the EU single market are dealt with through sharing of intelligence and targeting of risk.

Parcel operators will simply have to regularly submit standard commercial data to HMRC, that they hold as a matter of routine such as the place of delivery, when moving parcels to a consumer.

IMPLEMENTATION

The new arrangements will take effect in September 2024, providing businesses with significant time to prepare.

Existing arrangements will continue to apply until September 2024.

We will consult and work with business over the coming months ahead of implementing any changes required by these arrangements.

PARCELS: BUSINESS TO CONSUMER

