

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
The Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

**2nd September 2020**

Dear Chancellor

Following recent meetings with the Border and Protocol Delivery Group, HMRC and the Department for Transport, concern is growing from the logistics sector as to the Governments and Nations preparedness for transition. Our concern is so strong that we have collectively agreed to request an urgent roundtable meeting with yourself, The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Transport.

As key participants in the supply chain who will be required to deliver a functional operating border for GB and EU traders next year, we have visibility of the current state of preparedness which as it stands has significant gaps. If these issues are not addressed disruption to UK business and the supply chain that we all rely so heavily on will be severely disrupted.

The areas of concern that we need to discuss and will form the agenda for this urgent roundtable meeting are as follows: -

- 1) Grant Funding for Intermediaries
  - a) Current UK and EU Readiness
  - b) Current recruitment status and blockages
  - c) How the industry and Government can build capacity quickly?
  
- 2) IT and Systems Readiness
  - a. Single "Entry Process Unit" (EPU)
  - b. GVMS vs French SI Brexit
  - c. Smart Freight
  - d. Trader Support Service
  - e. Trader / Haulier readiness and timeline for delivery
  
- 3) Physical Border Infrastructure – Pace of Government Delivery
  - a. Location – What is needed and where?
  - b. Border Inspection Posts
  - c. Digital infrastructure and timing

The COVID pandemic has demonstrated to both Government and the general public the importance of a free-flowing supply chain and with transition occurring at the same time as a potential second COVID spike it is critical we ensure the supply chain is protected.

We are asking you to take seriously our concerns and listen to the detail during this roundtable so that we can collectively help Government manage through this enormous challenge with as little disruption as possible. Our aim, like yours, is to have a functional and effective border that allows goods to flow from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burnett  
Chief Executive



David Wells  
Chief Executive



Peter Ward  
Chief Executive



Kevin Richardson  
Chief Executive



Shane Brennan  
Chief Executive



Ian Studd  
Director General



Robert Keen  
Director General



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL  
FREIGHT ASSOCIATION

Gerry Keaney  
Chief Executive



CC.  
The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport  
The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer