

Welsh Affairs Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: The Chair of the Committee

Jim Harra CB
First Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
100 Parliament St
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2BQ

9 September 2020

Dear Mr Harra

With the outcome of the current trade negotiations with the EU still far from certain, there is a strong possibility that new customs arrangements will be required at the end of the transition period for UK companies trading overseas.

The Welsh Affairs Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the implications for Wales of post-Brexit trade arrangements and it would be useful for us to have a fuller understanding of the readiness of Welsh ports for any potential changes to customs arrangements in Wales. We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the following questions:

- What estimates have been made of the number of customs agents that will be required to facilitate trade with the EU after the end of the transition phase?
- As of 1 September 2020, how many of these customs agents have been recruited and/or trained?
- How many of the total number of estimated customs agents would be based in Wales?
- What additional customs processes and infrastructure (including IT equipment and software) will be required at ports in the event of the UK trading with the EU on WTO terms?
- What additional customs processes and infrastructure will be required at Welsh ports, such as Holyhead, to accommodate the implementation of the Northern Ireland protocol of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement?

Due to the importance of this subject, we would appreciate the above data by 30 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen", followed by a small horizontal line.

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP