



HM Revenue
& Customs

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Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

08 December 2020

Dear Mr Hoare,

Thank you for your email of 2 December 2020 following up on my commitment at the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to provide comparative figures on the number of HMRC staff working on EU transition for October 2019 and October 2020.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to update them on the work we are doing on customs and border readiness as we move towards the end of the transition period.

During the session you asked about the number of staff currently working on transition and the resilience within HMRC to “police, educate and advise” on the new border processes.

I told the Committee that in October 2020 HMRC had 5,991 permanent staff plus around 400 contractors and contingent labour available to support our EU transition work across GB and NI. These figures are on a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) basis.

You then asked how that compared to staffing levels the previous year. I can now provide figures for both October 2019 and October 2020.

	October 2019 FTEs**	October 2020 FTEs
Permanent Staff	5390	5991
Contractors & Contingent Labour	833	334
Total	6223	6325

** To aid comparison 2019 figures exclude Border and Protocol Delivery Group FTEs who moved to the Cabinet Office on 1st June 2020.

As I mentioned during the session, the staffing levels at October 2019 also reflect increases in staffing to prepare for the possibility of a No Deal exit at the end of January 2020.

I hope this additional information helps the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Reilly', is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Aidan Reilly
Director of Customs & Border Design