

## FAQs:

Q) Could you explain how the Retained EU Law Bill connects with the Brexit Freedoms Bill?

A) They are the same legislation.

Q) Are there concerns that divergence from EU law will actually mean extra red tape for businesses that trade with EU / NI?

A) Resolving issues that might arise as a result of divergence is a high priority for this government. This is one of the problems that the NI Protocol Bill aims to solve, and it is why we have focused much engagement with industry over the summer in listening to views on how divergence might affect you. Whether through the Bill, or through a negotiated agreement with the EU, we will need to find a way of effectively managing divergence.

Q) Can you provide an update on the completion of the Target Operating Model (TOM) work? There have been some suggestions that it may not be finished until 2024 as opposed to the end of 2022.

A) The work on the TOM is continuing, however as you will be aware we now have a new Ministerial Team (in both DEFRA and across government) and we are currently bringing them up to speed and agreeing the direction of travel and timelines. As soon as these discussions are complete we will share with you any updates and any impacts on timelines. At this stage I would hope that we could do this at the end of Oct/Nov.

Q) Will these legislative changes lead to a two-tier system, with products destined for the UK market produced to a different standard to ones destined for export to the EU?

A) Divergence is an inevitable result of leaving the EU. The EU will make new laws and regulations, as will the UK. Divergence might also emerge as a result of repealing, updating and amending Retained EU Law. It is normal that different countries and markets produce products to different standards. The important thing is to manage divergence in a way that enables UK industry and regulators to adapt effectively to changes over time.

Q) What about export certificates agreed with non-EU countries based on EU legislation?

A) You will still need to meet the relevant requirements for your export markets, including where that means certification that you have produced to / meet EU standards.

## FAQs from forum on 22/09/2022:

Q) Will the 'public beta' be open for all next year, or widening the trial participants first?

A) We will widen the trial participants for NI movements first, hopefully starting from October 2022. If this is successful, our aim is to make it publicly available next year (potentially April/May 2023). We are exploring how we can increase early trial participation for EU exports in advance of wider public testing.

Q) When is the E- cert testing going to start looking at complicated multi-product and multi-EHC loads? Is this going to happen prior to the beta rollout?

A) Our aim is to extend the testing to cover this in advance of the NI public beta rollout but this will depend on the outcomes of the test phases. We will also engage with traders who export to the EU, following the completion of the initial tests to NI.