

Minutes of the Joint meeting of the Shippers and Trade & Customs Councils

21st February 2023

11:00 – 13:00

Virtual

1. Welcome, introductions & conduct of meetings policy

- Michelle Gardiner (MG) Deputy Director of Policy at Logistics UK welcomed members to the meeting and passed on the apologies of the Chair, Ryan Allender.
- Logistics UK's new Trade Policy team, Nichola Mallon Head of Trade & Devolved Policy and Josh Fenton, Policy Manager for Trade, Customs and Borders, introduced themselves.
- MG provided a brief overview of the agenda.
- MG reminded members of the code of conduct for the meeting.

2. Roundtable discussion on topical issues

- A roundtable discussion took place on members' experience of the Customs Declaration System. One member highlighted a more positive experience of using CDS compared with CHIEF in giving the analytics their business needs. Another stated that while CDS is taking longer, it has been working well but technical solutions are required from HMRC to facilitate the final 3% of their business moving through CDS and there is no indication yet of when a solution will be implemented.
- One member highlighted an issue with incorrect data and that HMRC have been working for four months to try to rectify this mismatch of data on imports. They also highlighted, in relation to exports to the Channel Islands, that if master data is needed for products where it previously was not required, that will create an issue. Another member raised a concern that export tariffs data is not being maintained in the way it should and responses from HMRC to queries are not answering the questions asked.
- On recent industrial action, members reported no real impact on business.
- A member raised a concern that two requests for information at the last joint Council meeting had not been followed up by HMRC.
- **Action – MG to raise with HMRC and circulate responses to the group.**
- NM reminded members that Logistics UK has a standing monthly meeting with HMRC where we can raise members' issues.
Action – members to email NM with any issues.

3. Future meetings

The item on future meetings was brought forward while HMRC prepared to join the meeting. Members favoured in person meetings with a hybrid option.

Action – members were asked to provide any further feedback to NM via email.

4. Overview from HMRC on STW SPS User Research

- Jackie Thoms (JT) the service design lead for STW gave an overview of the SPS User Research.
- A member, who has engaged in the research, highlighted the need to balance an unbiased approach with experienced engagement so answers from participants can be questioned/challenged.
Action - HMRC to pick this up with the member offline.
- A member said they had responded in early February to say they would participate but have heard nothing back.
Action – HMRC to pick this up.
- In response to a query from a member on how participants are selected for this research, JT said the team works with the HMRC stakeholder engagement team to avoid stakeholder fatigue, but they want as wide a pool of volunteers as possible.
- A member urged other Council members to put themselves forward to improve the diversity of stakeholders and reduce the possibility of data inaccuracies.

5. Update from HMRC on Single Trade Window Programme

- Katie Szymanski (KS) delivered a power point presentation on the single trade window and its benefits to business, trade, and borders.
- 41 countries already operate a single trade window, and 72 countries are in the process of developing a STW including the UK.
- Members' feedback included the need for clear communication of timeline slippage, the need for caution in how changes are rolled out, and a preference that changes are rolled out with certainty, even if at a slightly slower timeframe, rather than a push ahead to a 2025 deadline that results in a costly process of continuous system change for business.
- A member asked if there will be divergence between NI and GB?
Action – KS to come back on this query.
- MG highlighted that Logistics UK has previously raised concerns on timelines and the impact on members.
- **Action – HMRC to share slides for circulation to Council members.**

6. Overview of CMA consultation on the retained Liner Shipping Consortia Block Exemption Regulation & other key issues facing Shippers - James Hookham, Director, Global Shippers Forum & Nichola Mallon, Head of Trade & Devolved Policy, Logistics UK.

- James Hookman gave an overview of the key policy issues on the agenda of the Global Shippers Forum. He then gave background to the CMA consultation on the retained Liner Shipping Consortia Block Exemption Regulation and GSF concerns. He highlighted that the UK is not the only country reviewing and questioning the need for this block exemption. It is also happening in the US, Canada, and Australia as well as other countries and regions.
- NM gave a presentation on Logistics UK's proposed response to this consultation, which is based on the response agreed by members and submitted to the consultation on the renewal of the EU CBER. In summary, this response opposed the renewal of this block exemption and proposed constructive alternative solutions to be implemented to keep the benefits of Vessel Sharing Agreements and maintain competitive advantage while avoiding distortions of competition between ports and minimising the risk of abuse and

anticompetitive behaviours. This response also called for a coordinated approach between the UK and other jurisdictions worldwide.

- Members raised no opposition to this approach.
- **Action – NM to circulate her presentation to members.**
- **Action – members to provide any further feedback to NM before 1pm on 22nd Feb.**

7. Any Other Business

- Nothing was raised.

MG closed the meeting.