

MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT

Creation of a new Department for International Trade

1. The Prime Minister announced a series of changes to Ministerial responsibilities on 13 and 14 July 2016, including the creation of a new Department for International Trade. This Cabinet Office paper describes the consequences of those changes for the functions of departments.
2. The new department will have overall responsibility for promoting British trade across the world. It will develop, coordinate and deliver a new trade and investment policy for the UK, including preparing for and then negotiating Free Trade Agreements and market access deals with non-EU countries. The new department will be a specialised body with significant new trade negotiating capacity. It will take on the responsibilities of UK Trade and Investment, which will be merged into the department, along with the relevant trade functions of the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and will also be responsible for UK Export Finance.
3. Bringing these functions into one department will help the Civil Service focus its efforts on priority trade relationships. It will also enable the department to build more specialist capacity for the challenges ahead.
4. This department will take on trade challenges that until the point of leaving the EU are EU competences, and combine this with the UK's existing export and investment work. The department will also inherit responsibility for offering support to businesses to export abroad.
5. The responsibilities of the new department will be to:
 - develop, coordinate and deliver new trade policy to promote UK business across the globe;
 - develop and negotiate trade agreements and market access deals with non-EU countries, and implement trade rules;
 - Negotiate plurilateral trade agreements;
 - support the UK's WTO membership and representation; and
 - provide operational support, including export credit facilities and import and export licensing services, to facilitate inward and outward investment.
6. The department will cover both inward and outward investment enabling the Government to take a more strategic approach to how both can contribute to UK prosperity and serve the nation's long-term economic aims. The department will look at both direct support to businesses considering making investments and the international agreements needed to support the investment climate.

7. In developing and coordinating trade policy, the department will work closely with HM Treasury, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for International Development, and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. These departments will help ensure that businesses in the UK are best able to compete internationally. The Department for International Trade will also work closely with departments that help companies trade, such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, who deliver customs procedures at our borders; and the Department for Transport, who have responsibility for the vital infrastructure such as airports and ports.
8. The department will work side by side with the new Department for Exiting the EU, which will negotiate the UK's new relationship with the EU in tandem.
9. The department will also work closely with the following affiliated bodies:

Advisory non-departmental public bodies

- Export Guarantees Advisory Council