



Department for  
International Trade



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for participating in the Lords consideration of Commons amendments debate on 2 February. I am pleased to be able to respond to the question on how many businesses conducting trade into and out of Northern Ireland have an EORI number and an EORI XI number. As you rightly pointed out in the debate, having a GB EORI is a prerequisite to obtaining an XI EORI, hence all XI EORI holders will also have a GB EORI. There is a need for two EORI numbers for an interim period as a GB EORI number is required to interact with the Customs Declaration System. An XI EORI number, however, is necessary for making Safety and Security declarations in the Import Control System.

You asked specifically how many businesses are using both numbers. The total of live GB EORI numbers is 768,955. However, these can be held by importers from other countries as well as by UK businesses, so HMRC estimates that there are 730,000 UK businesses with a GB EORI number. There are 58,507 live XI EORI numbers, of which HMRC estimate 58,000 are held by UK businesses. The estimate for the number with both EORI numbers is therefore 58,000.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt**  
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