



Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG
Minister of State
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Mr Angus Robertson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs
Scottish Government

14 September 2021

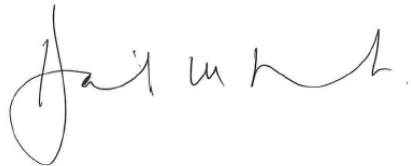
Dear colleague,

BORDER CONTROLS

1. I write to let you know that I am announcing today by Written Ministerial Statement a delay to the introduction of customs and SPS controls on the importation of goods from the EU.
2. Now that we are an independent trading country outside the Single Market and Customs Union, our intention remains to introduce the same controls on incoming goods from the EU as on goods from the rest of the world. The Government announced a timetable for the introduction of the final stages of those controls on 11 March. The Government's own preparations, in terms of systems, infrastructure and resourcing, remain on track to meet that timetable.
3. However, the pandemic has had longer lasting impacts on businesses, both in the UK and in the European Union, than many observers expected in March. There are also pressures on global supply chains, caused by a wide range of factors including the pandemic and the increased costs of global freight transport. These pressures are being especially felt in the agrifood sector.
4. In these circumstances, the Government has decided to delay further some elements of the new controls, especially those relating to Sanitary and Phytosanitary goods. Accordingly:
 - The requirement for pre-notification of agri-food imports will be introduced on 1 January 2022 as opposed to 1 October 2021.
 - The new requirements for Export Health Certificates, which were due to be introduced on 1 October 2021, will now be introduced on 1 July 2022.
 - Phytosanitary Certificates and physical checks on SPS goods at Border Control Posts, due to be introduced on 1 January 2022, will now be introduced on 1 July 2022.
 - The requirement for Safety and Security declarations on imports will be introduced as of 1 July 2022 as opposed to 1 January 2022.
5. The timetable for the removal of the current easements in relation to full customs controls and the introduction of customs checks remains unchanged from the planned 1 January 2022.

6. The Government will work closely with the Devolved Administrations on the implementation of this new timetable, given their devolved responsibilities for agri-food controls.
7. We will, of course, keep your Committees updated on our progress and preparations throughout the year.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frost', with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG