

UK GLOBAL TARIFF POLICY

A [four-week public consultation](#) on the UK Global Tariff policy, began on 6 February 2020 and will close on 5 March 2020 at 23:59 GMT. The Committee for the Economy encourages everyone with an interest to take part and provide their views.

Goods coming into the UK will no longer be subject to the EU's Common External Tariff as they have been for nearly 50 years, with the UK's new Global Tariff Policy coming into effect on 1 January 2021 for imports from any country the UK does not have a free trade agreement with. This comes as the government sets out details of the UK's approach to negotiating free trade agreements with countries including the US, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. As part of the consultation, the government is seeking views on:

- simplifying and tailoring the tariff to suit UK businesses and households, such as removing tariffs of less than 2.5% and rounding tariffs down to the nearest 2.5%, 5% or 10% band;
- removing tariffs on key inputs to production which could reduce costs for UK manufacturers; and
- removing tariffs where the UK has zero or limited domestic production which could help to lower prices for consumers.

The new UK Global Tariff Policy will apply to goods from countries around the world unless the UK has different arrangements in place, for example under a free trade agreement, or a tariff suspension applies. Tariffs levied by other countries on UK exports will depend on that country's own MFN tariff schedule and whether the UK has a trade agreement in place with them.

The UK will allow imports from countries that UK has a free trade agreement or other arrangement with, and with the world's poorest countries continuing to access the UK at lower tariffs as set out in those agreements.

In line with the Northern Ireland protocol, special arrangements will apply to goods entering Northern Ireland.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

The UK has left the EU and it is time for us to look forward to our future as an independent, global champion of free trade. It is vitally important that we now move away from complex tariff schedule imposed on us by the European Union. High tariffs impinge on businesses and raise costs for consumers. This is our opportunity to set our own tariff strategy that is right for UK consumers and businesses across our country. I am calling on people, businesses and civil society groups to seize this opportunity to take part in our consultation and tell us what would work best for them.