



Government Affairs UK

Our UK Government Affairs team of political and legal advisors has a wealth of experience advising on parliamentary and public policy unrivalled by our competitors.

We offer a wide range of integrated services to commercial clients, sovereigns, and international organisations looking to understand and navigate the complex domestic political and regulatory landscape. We provide comprehensive UK and international coverage, including from our Brussels and Washington D.C. offices, and can deploy quickly to deal with our clients' issues.

Whether you are looking to sharpen the impact of your government affairs and public policy operations; interested in engaging with parliamentary select committees; seeking to understand the impact of Brexit; or looking for strategic advice on how best to do business in a highly regulated sector, our team is here to help you drive forward your business.

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INSIGHTS

Publications

The UK Bribery Act: A Perfect 10 or an uninspired 5/10?

1 July 2021

From its conception, the UK Bribery Act 2010, which came into force on 1 July 2011, presented itself as a radical and comprehensive overhaul of UK anti-bribery and corruption law. So, a decade on, what does the score card look like?

High fat, sugar or salt food and drink regulation changes

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- UK Parliamentary
Select Committees

25 May 2021

In the UK plans to ban the advertising of High Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) products will now go ahead. It is expected to hit food manufacturers hard and they need to be prepared for the changes. In this guide we explore what businesses can do to respond and prepare, as well as what stage each proposal has reached.

The Queen's Speech 2021 – the new UK legislative programme

13 May 2021

On 11 May 2021, the Queen officially opened Parliament and delivered her Queen's Speech outlining the government's priorities and the laws that ministers intend to pass in the new parliamentary session. Short summaries of the key Bills are set out in this article.

The UK Government adopts the National Security and Investment Act on 29 April 2021

10 May 2021

With the adoption of the National Security & Investment Act, the UK is embarking on a serious journey to toughen foreign investment rules in line with other major economies in a move prompted by concerns surrounding foreign investment in critical or sensitive sectors.

Establishment of new freeports in England

29 April 2021

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

England announced the location of eight new freeports with the hope they will act as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK; promote regeneration and job creation as part of the Government's commitment to "levelling up"; and provide hotbeds for innovation.

Postponement of post-Brexit border checks in Great Britain

23 March 2021

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

The UK Government introduced a Border Operating Model for a phased introduction of full customs and regulatory checks on imports from the EU into Great Britain. It gives supply-chain managers six months more to ensure affected EU imports are ready for the new SPS checks which will be put in place from October.

What happens when trade goes wrong? Understanding trade remedies and what they mean for you

7 January 2021

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

Trade remedies have previously been assessed and implemented by the EU on behalf of the UK under the multilateral WTO framework. From 1 January 2021, the UK has implemented an independent trade remedies framework; the aim being to defend UK business interests from potentially injurious market distortion.

The new three-tier system: A summary of the English coronavirus restrictions in force from 2 December

2 December 2020

On 2 December 2020, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 come into force. These govern the transition from a full lockdown to lighter restrictions until 2 February 2021.

Brexit: Choice of Law, Jurisdiction, Enforcement, and Service

27 November 2020

This article looks at the impact of reaching the end of the Brexit transition period (at 11pm on 31 December 2020) on governing law, jurisdiction, enforcement, and service in contracts between UK entities and EU member state entities.

Continuity or Change? Procurement Rules after Brexit

12 November 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

This week's edition of DLA Piper Trade Truths, we look at how the UK's accession to the WTO's plurilateral procurement agreement is likely to change the UK's procurement regime at the end of the Transition Period.

Lockdown 2.0: a summary of the latest English Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations, published on 5 November 2020

12 November 2020

On 5 November 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.4) Regulations 2020 came into effect. These new regulations are the UK government's response to a second wave of COVID-19 cases and enforce a new national lockdown for England until 2 December 2020.

A "Global Britain" – the UK's changing role at the World Trade Organisation

29 October 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

This edition of Trade Truths looks at how Brexit will change the UK's relationship with the WTO and sheds light on the election of the new WTO Director-General, and what this means for the UK's post-Brexit future.

State aid: Levelling the playing field or moving the goalposts?

21 October 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

The European Commission unveiled plans on 17 June 2020 to take a tougher line on subsidised foreign companies in the EU market. Under this proposal, the Commission seeks to "safeguard critical EU companies" in strategic industries such as pharma and agri-food so that they do not fall victim to "hostile takeovers conducted by large dominant player".

Rules of Origin - what you need to know

9 October 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

With less than two months before the end of the Brexit Transition Period, importers and exporters of goods between the UK and both the EU, and the rest of the world, are preparing for the impact of significant changes to UK and EU trading arrangements upon their businesses and operations. Recent articles in the DLA Piper Trade Truths series have examined the realities of trading on so-called 'World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms', should there be no deal at the end of the Transition Period, including the impact on customs procedures and tariffs on goods, together with the UK's post-Brexit trading landscape.

Beyond the EU-UK Negotiations: Planning for trade with the rest of the world after Brexit

30 September 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

Whilst clients are rightly focused on the current status of negotiations between the UK and EU, some 12 weeks before the end of the Transition Period, it is easy to lose sight of the impact of Brexit on the UK's trading relationship with the rest of the world and the commercial consequences of this for businesses.

Face coverings, self-isolation and hospitality restrictions: Further tightening of English coronavirus regime

28 September 2020

New lockdown regulations came into force in England on 23, 24 and 28 September 2020 to address rising cases of COVID-19. We discuss the new regulations and what it means for businesses.

The Northern Ireland Protocol and the UK Internal Market Bill

15 September 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

The second article in the DLA Piper Trade Truths series explains why the Internal Market Bill has attracted such controversy, and what it could mean in terms of preparing your business for trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland from next year.

COVID-19: Preparing to return to work

14 July 2020

Many employers have adapted their working arrangements to ensure that employees have been able to work from home safely. However, following recent changes in legislation on gatherings, employers should now turn their attention to what is permitted, and what steps should be taken so employees can continue to work safely.

UK imposes targeted human rights-based sanctions in first autonomous move

9 July 2020

On 6 July 2020, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced the first autonomous sanctions designations since the UK formally left the European Union on 31 January 2020.

A successful s67 challenge: Silence did not confer authority to enter into an arbitration agreement

7 July 2020

The case *MVV Environment Devonport Ltd v NTO Shipping GmbH & Co. KG MS 'MV Nortrader'* was one of the few successful challenges to an arbitral award which we have seen before the English courts in recent years.

Further relaxation of English coronavirus restrictions

16 June 2020

The UK government has enacted emergency legislation to address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. In England, regulations were laid and came into force from 26 March 2020 onwards under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. On 12 June 2020, the UK government published the most recent (the fourth) set of amendment regulations.

Loosening the lockdown: 1 June 2020 amendments to the English COVID-19 emergency regulations

1 June 2020

The UK government and the UK devolved administrations have enacted emergency legislation to address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. On 31 May 2020, the UK government laid the most recent and, in some respects, the most significant, set of amendment regulations. The changes came into force at 11:30am BST on 1 June 2020.

Top ten UK frauds to be aware of during the COVID-19 pandemic

22 May 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak has had an unprecedented effect on the world economy. The UK government has quadrupled its borrowing plans over the next three months with HM Treasury seeking to raise GBP180 billion in order to meet its spending needs as tax revenues plunge.

UK financial crime systems and controls during COVID-19: The FCA's view

21 May 2020

On 6 May 2020, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) issued a statement on how firms should apply their systems and controls to combat and prevent financial crime during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19: UK Government guidance on Modern Slavery reporting

6 May 2020

The UK Government has acknowledged the impact of COVID-19 on businesses' modern slavery reporting requirements and will allow businesses to delay publication of their modern slavery statement.

COVID-19 – a legitimate basis for investment claims?

16 April 2020

This article considers whether measures taken by States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic could provide a legitimate basis for claims under bilateral investment treaties (BITs) or other investment protection instruments, and identifies some of the defences that may be available to States.

Brexit means what?

5 February 2020

The UK left the EU at midnight CET on 1 February 2020. But what does this actually mean for competition law?

NEWS

DLA Piper bolsters UK Government Affairs practice with the appointment of Lord Tyrie

10 December 2020

DLA Piper has further strengthened its UK Government Affairs practice with the appointment of Lord (Andrew) Tyrie, former Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority, as a political consultant.
