



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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By post and by email

20 March 2019

With only a few days to go before the U.K. is due to leave the EU the government has published vital information about the new customs duty tariff rates and the quotas that would apply to imports in the event of the UK leaving the EU with no deal. These could materially impact upon businesses in your sector. Please find all relevant links in the attached Appendix.

I share the concern of many businesses about the approach that has been taken with respect to the introduction of these measures and the lack of formal consultation and proper engagement with affected stakeholders. Particularly, I am concerned about the impact that reducing tariffs to zero on up to 87% of imports will have on our domestic producers, including your organisation's members.

The lack of any opportunity for proper parliamentary scrutiny has prompted me to write directly to business organisations, such as yourselves, to ask what concerns you or your members have, if any, about the impact that these measures will have on your sector?

In respect of sectors where imports may currently be subject to trade remedy measures, I would be grateful if you might advise me specifically whether the government's decision to lower tariffs has adversely affected its capacity to continue the application of trade remedies and protect domestic producers from unfair foreign competition.

It appears that the tariff rate quotas which have been published to accompany the temporary tariffs regime may not be temporary and may well constitute our formal submission to the World Trade Organization.

You will be aware that the government have previously intimated that our tariff rate quotas would be a fair apportionment of our existing share of the European Union's formally approved tariff rate quotas determined by recent annualised trade volumes. I am concerned that this may appear not to be the case.

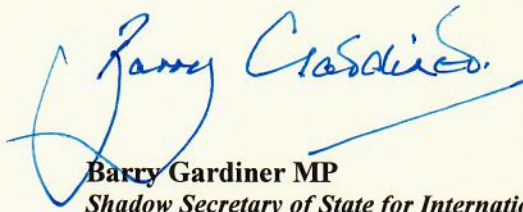
I would be extremely grateful if you would advise me whether your organisation or its members have had the opportunity to review the published quotas and confirm whether you are satisfied that they represent a fair and appropriate approximation of our proportionate share of the existing EU quotas or whether you have any concerns in respect of the same.

I do appreciate that you may not yet have had an opportunity to conduct such a review given ongoing pressures on resources and time. However, the publication of these measures at such short notice and without formal consultation so close to the United Kingdom's possible departure from the European Union leaves little capacity for businesses and advisors to prepare for any changes to their industry and the terms upon which they currently trade. It is for this reason that I am requesting your urgent response so that businesses do not find that they are confronted with a fait accompli after it is simply too late.

I trust that you will appreciate the urgent nature of these matters given the current Brexit timetable. In this respect, your earliest possible response would be enormously appreciated.

Please do feel free to get in touch with my office directly on 02072192104 if you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Gardiner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Barry Gardiner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade

APPENDIX

**Guidance Notes: [Check temporary rates of customs duty \(tariffs\) on imports after EU Exit](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-tariffs-on-imports-after-eu-exit),
Department for International Trade, 13 March 2019
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit>)**

- Overview
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit#overview>)
- Check current rates of customs duty (tariffs)
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit#check-current-rates-of-customs-duty-tariffs>)
- Check temporary rates of customs duty (tariffs) if the UK leaves the EU with no deal
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit#check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-tariffs-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>)
- Preferential tariff rates
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit#preferential-tariff-rates>)
- Most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariff rates
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-temporary-rates-of-customs-duty-on-imports-after-eu-exit#most-favoured-nation-mfn-tariff-rates>)
- Tariff quota rates (TRQ)
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-trade-tariff-tariff-quotas-and-ceilings>)