

Food and Drink Industry Round Table on the Future UK-EU Relationship Thursday 31 January 2019

1. Local Resilience Forums (LRFs)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is working with [Local Resilience Forums](#) (LRFs) across the country. It is essential that the LRFs know the food and drink businesses in their area as they will play a central role in contingency planning. Members should raise any issues they have with contacting the LRFs via DEXEU.

2. No-deal preparations

The group discussed how best to collectively support the industry in the event of a no deal scenario, including the possible use of call centres or a shared inbox to triage calls and direct to the appropriate organisation or Government department. Government has published a lot of advice however much of it is not business-friendly, particularly for SMEs. Government has set up a dedicated [no-deal preparedness](#) website and a public information campaign will soon launch.

A sub-group of members has been meeting to discuss no deal preparedness and a note of their most recent meeting is attached. The group will meet via conference call on Friday 15 February and will report back on progress to this group.

Defra is setting up a new call centre to handle issues and crises arising post-Brexit. It currently has around 80 staff and the staffing levels will likely increase. Defra is working with MHCLG and LRFs to ensure the centre has a local presence. The regular Defra crisis centres will continue to operate separately. Members should meet on a sub-sector basis with the call centre organisers to help identify issues that are expected to arise.

Actions

1. Members to draft letter for companies to introduce/identify themselves to Local Resilience Forums.
2. FDF to update the group at a later meeting on discussion with the NFU on the use of their local offices for no deal preparations and coordination.
3. Members that face difficulties engaging with their Local Resilience Forums to report back at future meetings.
4. Members to inform Defra where potential food and drink supply shortages and blockages are anticipated.
5. Members to share detailed concerns with Defra on gaps in information in Government's technical notices and guidance.
6. Members to organise themselves by industry sub-sector and arrange meeting with officials from the new Defra emergency call centre.
7. Defra to create simple guidance for businesses in key product categories outlining essential steps they must take to continue exporting/importing.
8. HM Treasury to report concerns raised by members to Government colleagues on potential cash flow issues arising from tariffs on imports from the EU.

9. Members to send their mobile numbers to luke.hindlaugh@fdf.org.uk to be added to Brexit WhatsApp group.
10. NIFDA to share SME guidance for circulation to members.
11. FDF to draft joint letter to Government requesting non-Brexit consultations affecting food and drink to be paused.
12. FDF to draft joint letter on taking no deal option off the table. Members and companies to be invited to sign the letter.

Future meeting and conference call dates

Date	Time	Location
Thurs 21 February	16:00-17:00	
Thurs 28 February	14:00-16:00	nabim 21 Arlington Street London SW1A 1RN
Thurs 7 March	16:00-17:00	
Thurs 14 March	16:00-17:00	
Thurs 21 March	16:00-17:00	
Thurs 28 March	14:00-16:00	FDF
Thurs 4 April	16:00-17:00	
Tues 23 April	14:00-16:00	FDF
Tues 28 May	14:00-16:00	FDF
Mon 24 June	14:00-16:00	FDF
Tues 23 July	14:00-16:00	FDF
Tues 27 August	14:00-16:00	FDF
Mon 7 October	14:00-16:00	FDF
Mon 28 October	14:00-16:00	FDF
Weds 20 November	14:00-16:00	FDF
Tues 17 December	14:00-16:00	FDF