



Following on from the BREXIT vote in June there have been considerable changes to UK Government Departments. This re-organisation was intended as a deliberate refocussing of Government to promote and support the UK's international trade. This is not just aimed at existing trade but also at promoting and growing new exports and imports of all kinds. It is also aimed at ensuring the UK is ready and waiting to take advantage of new opportunities.

The Department for Exiting the EU is responsible for negotiations with the EU on both the exit agreement and the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

Between them they are driving the UK's place in the world, promoting the UK 'brand' and creating new opportunities for UK businesses.

Change may very well be the only 'constant' in business life but change drives opportunities for those businesses willing to embrace the new future and drive it forward.

To make the most of these opportunities it is important for business to understand the responsibilities of these Departments. The following gives an outline of what has happened to the teams we already knew and the new teams that have been created:

The Department for International Trade (DIT)

This is the new Department charged with developing trade and investment policy and promoting exports and investment around the globe. The Department has a wide remit, incorporating the negotiation of trade deals and free trade agreements, as well as providing the international support previously provided by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the Export Control Organisation (ECO) and working with the UK's export credit agency, UK Export Finance (UKEF) providing financial export support.

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP

In overall charge of all policies and sectors whilst personally leading on the defence and security sector and will be involved in the most significant global deals across all sectors.

Greg Hands MP

Minister of State for Trade and Investment leading on high value export and investment campaigns in the following sectors: technology and smart cities, infrastructure, energy, healthcare and life sciences. He will also be leading on: cross-Whitehall alignment; the business forecasting function; UKEF; and policy direction on topics such as mergers and acquisitions and overseas direct investment.

The Lord Price CVO

Minister of State for Trade Policy leading the Trade Policy Unit, which has a wide range of functions, including strategy and communications, organisation, operations, free trade agreements and the UK's dealings with the World Trade Organisation.

Mark Garnier MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State leading on high value export and investment campaigns in the following sectors: financial services, advanced manufacturing and aerospace, automotive, bio-economy, consumer, creative and education. He will also be leading on work with the Export Control Organisation, the high volume export campaign, UK regional delivery and overseas partner delivery.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Department brings together responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy, and climate change. Part of its remit is to promote and secure inward investment to the UK.

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP is the Secretary of State responsible for the Department

The Department is responsible for:

- developing and delivering a comprehensive industrial strategy and leading the government's relationship with business
- ensuring that the country has secure energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and clean
- ensuring the UK remains at the leading edge of science, research and innovation
- tackling climate change

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

The FCO, lead by the Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, promotes the United Kingdom's interests overseas, supporting UK citizens and businesses around the globe.

These are summed up by the foreign policy priorities of

- protecting our people,
- projecting our global influence and
- promoting our prosperity

The FCO is responsible for:

- safeguarding the UK's national security by countering terrorism and weapons proliferation, and working to reduce conflict
- building the UK's prosperity by increasing exports and investment, opening markets, ensuring access to resources, and promoting sustainable global growth
- supporting British nationals around the world through modern and efficient consular services

The Department for Exiting the European Union

The Rt Hon David Davis MP is the Secretary of State responsible for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and EU.

This Department is responsible for:

- the policy work to support the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union and to establish the future relationship between the EU and the UK
- working very closely with the UK's devolved administrations, Parliament, and a wide range of other interested parties on what the approach to those negotiations should be
- conducting the negotiations in support of the Prime Minister including supporting bilateral discussions on EU exit with other European countries
- leading and co-ordinating cross-government work to seize the opportunities and ensure a smooth process of exit on the best possible terms

Need help? Contact us:

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