

20 April 2018

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Brexit: New government border facilities requirements at UK ports

We are grateful for the continued support you have shown towards the UK ports sector and the statements you have made in respect of 'frictionless trade' at our borders post Brexit. As you may recall, the British Ports Association represents a wide range of UK ports and terminals who in one form or another facilitate around 80% of the UK's international trade. Included in this are ports that handle the majority of the UK's trade with Europe. Many of these are Roll-on Roll-off port and terminals which facilitate in excess of 10,000 lorry journeys between the UK and the EU each day, largely uninterrupted.

We understand the Government's decision to leave the EU's Customs Union and the Single Market, and as a non-political organisation we would not take position on this. However, new administrative processes for trade particularly for hauliers and those in the logistics chain may have significant impacts at European 'facing' ports. There are currently around 30 Government agencies or organisations which can carry out procedures at ports and we expect there to be additional physical and digital infrastructure requirements at the border to accommodate new arrangements following Brexit.

It is critical that these agencies are prepared for a new Brexit regime and that the infrastructure required is in place in time. Last Autumn's Budget Statement included significant funding for Brexit preparations and we are seeking your assurances that this will cover the resourcing of these physical facilities and not just additional staff, so as not to introduce further potential negative impacts on ports. To truly achieve the Government's ambition of frictionless trade, it will be important that the passenger and freight checks that do take place at the border are kept to a minimum, with as much activity as possible undertaken away from ports. We would also expect that facilities needed by the border agencies are shared to prevent additional disruption or duplications of infrastructure being built.

We are grateful for your attention and we would welcome continued collaboration with your colleagues on this technical but important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Ballantyne'.

Richard Ballantyne
Chief Executive, British Ports Association