

# Professional and Business Services

## Example include:

Law and accountancy firms, financial services, architects, medical professions, business advisers, business service providers, professional carers

### Key facts

- 1 Providing services to EU customers may be different when the UK's relationship with the EU changes
- 2 UK businesses will have to comply with the rules of their customer's country (host-country rules)
- 3 There may be no mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- 4 In some cases service providers will have to be based in the EU, appoint a representative or have an EU-hosted website

How you buy and sell business and professional services from and to the EU may be different in the future. Hiring people from EU countries will also change. For a period of time we will not know the details of our new relationship with the EU. Therefore, businesses are advised to consider their activities and look at what trading under a base-line scenario of World Trade Organization rules would potentially mean for their margins.

## People

- EU nationals currently in the UK can apply for (pre-)settled status under the Settlement Scheme
- From 2021, future EU staff will need to apply under a points-based immigration system if they want to work here
- UK nationals **travelling** to the EU will require a passport that is valid for at least 6 months and can stay for a maximum of 90 consecutive days
- **Employed and self-employed workers** carrying out an assignment in Europe may be subject to local (employment) and immigration rules
- **Roaming charges** may apply to UK customers using their devices in the EU

## Trade

- UK services providers will be subject to local rules in each EU country they do business in
- **Owning or running a business in the EU** may mean different requirements, depending on the sector and country in which the business is operating

## Regulation

- Auditors, accountants and lawyers will not be able to operate in the EU as they do now
- UK professional qualifications may no longer be recognised in the EU and a new UK recognition system for EU (EEA) qualifications will be phased in
- Some services sectors such as media services or financial services will need a 'passport' to be able to provide their services in the EU (EEA)
- The legal basis for holding **personal data** from EU customers will eventually become a problem

## To do

### People

- Support and encourage current EU staff to apply for (pre-)settled status. Check out the [Settlement Scheme Employer Toolkit](#)
- Read the information on future recruitment of EU staff: [European Temporary Leave to Remain](#) and [a new immigration policy](#)
- Find out what will change when [visiting Europe after Brexit](#) and all aspects of [travelling between the EU and the UK](#) in detail, or call the Europe Direct helpline: 00 800 67891011 (8am-4pm)

### Trade

- Read the [general guidance on providing services in the EU \(EEA\), the country guides](#) and [on providing professional services](#)

### Regulation

- If you are an auditor, check [this guidance](#)
- If you are an accountant, check [this guidance](#)
- If your business provides legal services, check [this guidance](#)
- If your business is in the financial sector, check [this guidance](#)
- Check if your profession is on the [list of qualifications](#) that are now mutually recognised

- Try to understand changes to your [VAT obligations](#) and [what it means to trade as a business from a non-EU country with regard to VAT](#)
- Check the [ICO guidance on GDPR post Brexit](#)
- You may also want to read the EU preparedness notices on [professional qualifications](#), [services and posted workers](#), [financial services](#), [audiovisual media services](#), [digital services](#) and on [VAT](#)

Check the [get ready for Brexit business tool](#) and the [EU Preparedness Notices](#) for all other questions on EU exit and your sector.

## What's next?

If an exit agreement is ratified, trade under EU rules will continue as normal for at least a year during an 'implementation period'. In the event that there is no implementation period, the commercial environment will change faster and we will trade with the EU under WTO rules. In the longer term, a new trade agreement will lay down the final conditions for UK-EU trade.

**For more information on EU exit and your business: Visit [London Growth Hub](#) or [sign up for free business resilience training](#).**

## London Growth Hub

[growthhub@london.gov.uk](mailto:growthhub@london.gov.uk)