

# Border controls

## HTA Briefing

### Introduction

96% of British plant and tree growers import plant material from abroad, the bulk of product being from the EU. So any disruption to the efficiency of supply chains or the changes in the trade process has a significant impact on our members.

**83% of HTA members who import plants claim a negative impact due to the lack of a Sanitary / Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement with the EU, meaning import restrictions were imposed by the UK Government after Brexit**

EU Exit added £30million in costs to the supply chain, and that sum could rise significantly if the new border processes to be announced within the Target Operating Model (TOM) in 2023 are not efficiently implemented in good time.

The TOM is expected to set in motion a series of new border processes, technologies and initiatives designed to ease the trade in SPS goods and importing in general.

A key process for the importation of plants is ensuring Border Control Posts are fit for purpose and operate cost effectively, and businesses have easy access to upgraded technology and SMEs a properly provisioned for.

Once implemented, the TOM will see EU & Rest of World imports treated alike, thereby bringing in a globalised control regime at the same time.

### Key asks for Parliament & Policy Makers

- Ensure that imports, particularly of young starter plants, are recognised as fundamental to British horticulture production.
- Recognise that the horticultural trade is a key provider of green growth jobs which are vital to delivering environmental goals.
- Ensure importing plant goods is as smooth a trade process as possible and make proposed Border Control Points cost and administratively effective.
- Ensure processes are devised & delivered, and costs understood in a timely manner, and are communicated well before any changes to controls come into force.
- Launch an Authorised Operator Status model (trusted trader) at the same time border checks go live, in a realistic time frame and ensure it is accessible by SMEs
- Ensure there are clear communications for supporting SMEs to become Control Points, enabling inspections to be done away from the border.
- Ensure the IPAFFS system replacing PEACH incorporates the functionality the industry needs, reduces admin and is delivered well before any changes to controls are introduced.
- Make exporting UK plant products and intellectual capital high up on the trade agenda, working with industry to identify markets, address barriers and facilitate opportunities.
- Prioritise removing the prohibition for export to the EU (and therefore Northern Ireland by default) of 21 key species (e.g., oak, beech, birch, cheery, hawthorn, apple, honeysuckle etc)
- To continue to work with bodies such as the HTA to raise biosecurity standards in a way that does not hinder the growth of the industry.

### About us

The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) represents 1500 members in the Environmental Horticulture Sector including; garden centre retailers, tree and plant growers, goods manufacturers, landscapers,

and service providers. Our industry supports nearly 700,000 jobs, has a national GDP of £28.8 billion, mitigates climate change and benefits health and wellbeing for 30 million gardeners in the UK.



### Further information

For further information contact the HTA Policy Team via email at [policy@hta.org.uk](mailto:policy@hta.org.uk) and visit [hta.org.uk/policy](https://hta.org.uk/policy)

## Biosecurity

The industry has robust biosecurity standards and auditing systems in place, such as [OHAS](#) and [Plant Healthy](#), and has implemented Plant Passporting, which is mandatory to maintain traceability for all plants moving in trade and ensuring a level of competence in plant health, pests and disease amongst all professional operators.

The industry enhances UK biosecurity through its expertise and best practice.

**Horticulture underwrites 50% of 25-year Environmental Plan but to deliver this, businesses must be able to import and export with minimal administrative and cost burdens.**

### Proportions of HTA membership importing from the EU:

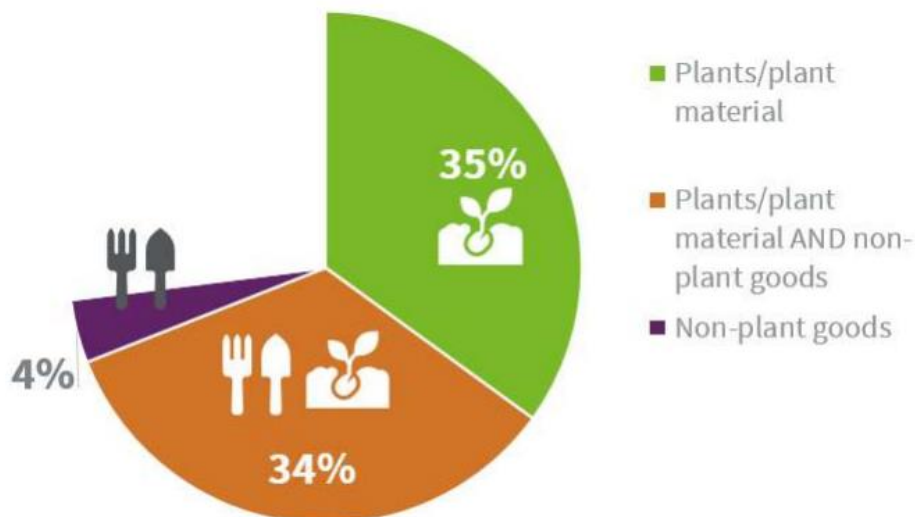


Figure 4. Does your business import plants and/or non-plant goods from the EU? (Base: HTA members, n = 138)

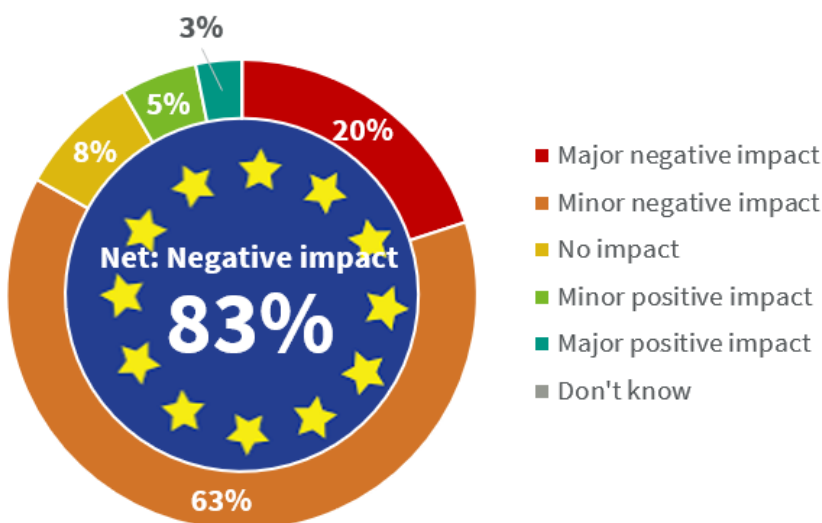


Figure 2. “Thinking about the changes to the way the UK trades with the EU since the UK’s EU Exit in January 2021, how would you describe the impact (if any) on your business? Impact so far (since 1st Jan 2021)” (Base: HTA members who are importing plants/plant material from the EU, n = 95)

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