



HM Government

# FUTURE BORDERS

*Developing a world class border  
that enhances the prosperity and security of the UK*



## Upstreaming Border Readiness – Smart Freight

OFFICIAL



*A new service is being introduced in January 2020 to help industry prepare for border controls when travelling to the EU*

## Context

For January 2020, 'Smart Freight' will be used to enable a 'border readiness' check for outbound GB-EU freight vehicles before they get close to the port. It will enable those using the service to check that they have the correct processes and 'paperwork' in place at the point of goods being collected, and to self-certify that a vehicle is 'border ready', before it proceeds to a port.

Smart Freight is designed to minimise any disruption to the flow of freight between the GB and the EU and minimise traffic congestion caused by traders not having the correct documentation for Member State border controls. The potential benefits could include:

- Asking drivers and haulage companies to perform an 'upstream' border readiness check in advance of sending vehicles to the port, whilst signposting relevant information and guidance from HMG.
- Reduce the need for physical 'border readiness' checks as part of traffic management plans, for example those previously envisaged on the M20 and at Manston in Kent
- Reduce the volume of HGVs that travel to ports without having consulted relevant information or making the necessary preparations for the range of EU import controls
- Facilitate the identification of 'border ready' HGVs within traffic management systems and ensure that ready HGVs can proceed to port without being disrupted by freight that does not have the correct documentation

## Proposal for Smart Freight

- For the end of the Transition Period the service would be introduced for RoRo freight travelling from GB to the EU, and would help ensure that only vehicles carrying the correct documentation for EU Member State border controls travel to ports.
- Where an HGV was deemed 'border ready' the web portal would tell the user that the vehicle could travel to the port, while HGVs that are not border ready would be advised not to travel until the missing documentation had been obtained.



*Smart Freight is supporting the upstreaming of border readiness checks for the end of the transition period. The current view of scope and base functionality for 2020 are highlighted below.*

Smart Freight 2020 is a service that will focus on the **Short Straits and Kent corridor** (but the service will be made available nationwide). It aims to **reduce the risk of hauliers/freight forwarders arriving at the border without appropriate documents** and therefore causing traffic disruption on the UK road network.

## For industry users: SF Industry Web Application

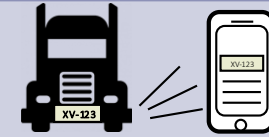
A web-based application targeted to industry to confirm pre-border compliance



- It provides **signposting to information** in Gov.UK for businesses and individuals to understand new requirements for end of 2020.
- Enables advanced submission of industry data, and provides access to those deemed ready, and eligible, to travel to port. Assumption is that these include VRN, travel date, port of departure, and country of entry.
- Enables industry to provide **border readiness checks confirmation** that goods are ready to cross the border and correct documentation is held. In the case of Operation Brock being in effect, a successful submission will be needed in order to receive a Kent Electronic Access Permit.

## For HMG Users: SF HMG Operator App

A mobile application targeted to HMG users to provide access to freight vehicle details



- Enables HMG operators to view **border readiness checks/ data visualisation** to validate whether the freight vehicle has made a submission through the web-app.
- **VRN scan functionality** to the HMG Operator app so that HMG operators can scan the VRN to see the submitted data and readiness confirmation.

# Smart Freight 2020 – 2025 vision



**Vision:** Enable secure and expedited UK Border crossing for compliant freight transport.

**Mission:** Continually evolve services that fosters collaboration between the Freight Industry and HMG, leverages data and provides a single status view of any consignment movement pre, at and post the border.

## For Industry Users:

Increased collaboration and early, consolidated engagement with HMG for expedited border crossing.

### Signposting to Legislation

Signposting industry users to Gov.uk to help them understand compliance requirements

### Advance Submission of Industry Data

Collaboration with industry users for advanced submission of consignment/vehicle data / priority goods

### Border Readiness Checks Confirmation

Haulier/freight forwarders can view checklist and confirm the presence of required documents

### Virtual Queuing

Ability for freight vehicles to queue virtually and notified for a 'Just in Time' route to the border

### Driver Registration

Allowing drivers to move through the UK border faster using automated biometric technology

## For HMG users:

Better visibility and access to industry data (pre, at and post the border) to inform coordination and management of flow, and interception of vehicles.

### Border Readiness/ Compliance Data Visualisation

HMG ability to view border readiness checks and compliance linked to the vehicle VRN

### Tracking of consignment/ vehicles

Ability to view consignment status and movement pre, at and post the border

### Scheduling/ Capacity Management

Real-time management of vehicles moving to and from ports to enable prioritisation, flow and interceptions

### Driver Comms

HMG Ability to provide guidance and messaging / directives directly to the freight industry

### Biometric Border Checks

Faster Border process, ability to link driver information with consignment/vehicle data, improving risking & targeting.



*Through our engagement with industry and HMG departments to date, we have developed a number of assumptions. It is important we are able to validate these assumptions through further engagement with industry.*

**For example, we have assumed that:**

- Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) of the cab is an appropriate unique identifier;
- an outbound cab will cross the Short Straits no more than once per day;
- in some cases, the VRN of the cab collecting the goods may not be known until just before the point of departure;
- 30% of outbound trailers will be empty;
- up to 50% of vehicles will be in transit (i.e. subject to the CTC office of departure processes);
- there is no need for Smart Freight to communicate directly with drivers;
- Freight Forwarders / Hauliers will be ultimately responsible for supplying the necessary details for Smart Freight;
- it is feasible for Industry to provide VRN, Destination Port and anticipated Date and Time of arrival prior to departure from the depot;
- It is feasible for submission of this data to be a manual data entry process and that signposting to appropriate Border Readiness Checking guidance would be beneficial.

Our user researchers would welcome the opportunity to discuss the above, and many other elements of the proposed process, with you and your operational staff.

# Smart Freight – Your Participation

## Who do we want to speak to?

Our research with Industry involves the activities listed below:

- **Activity 1:** about 3 online interviews with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to understand existing processes, issues and needs and to validate current assumptions.
- **Activity 2:** up to 6 online interviews with operational staff that are involved in daily operations.

## How do I take part?

If you would like to participate – please email

[futurebordersevents@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:futurebordersevents@hmrc.gov.uk)

## When and how?

We'd like to start at your earliest convenience, and finishing not later than the end of July 2020.

- Interviews will be conducted researchers from the Smart Freight team and will last circa 2 hours. A few observers may also join if relevant,
- On the basis of your availability, we'll be able to accommodate group interviews as well,
- Agenda, interview questions and more detailed information will be shared before any interview,
- With your consent, we'll record the interviews, otherwise we'll take notes,
- Please also note that we would like to develop an ongoing relationship with the people we speak to at this stage so that we can involve them in the ongoing design and development decisions that will shape Smart Freight services.