



BREXIT SUPPORT FUND SCHEME

SUMMARY

If you are a business trading with the EU in 2021, or alternatively moving goods between the UK and Northern Ireland, you can apply for financial support towards your costs of '**continuing to do business**' !

The £20m **SME Brexit Support Fund** is a scheme which is aimed at providing support to SMEs with accessing practical support, as well as training, in respect of the new customs rules applicable since 1st January 2021.

Successful applicants can obtain a grant of up to **£2,000** from the fund towards the costs of both **training AND professional advice**.

The **BREXIT Support fund** grants are being administered externally by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, with applications being accepted up until **30th June 2021 - or earlier if all funding is allocated before this date**.

HOWEVER any successful grant claims from the fund must also be paid out by **31st August 2021** at the latest !!

- <https://www.customsintermediarygrant.co.uk/sme-brexit-support-fund>

ELIGIBILITY

The criteria for businesses planning to claim under the **BREXIT Support fund** scheme include the following:

1. the business must import or export goods between Great Britain and the EU, or move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
2. the business cannot have more than 500 employees, and no more than £100m annual turnover
3. the business must have been established in the UK for at least 12 months
4. the business either **completes**, or **intends to complete customs declarations** internally for its own goods
5. the business uses intermediary representation for completion of customs declarations, **BUT requires additional capability internally, such as advice on rules of origin or VAT** etc.
6. the business must be in '**good standing**' with HMRC
7. a business that trades in **services** will **NOT** be eligible



FUNDING OPTIONS

Traders can apply for up to £2,000 **in total** through two types of grants:

1. **Training** – grants can be used to provide training which may include
 - how to complete customs declarations
 - how to manage customs processes and use customs software and systems
 - specific import and export related aspects of trading (VAT, excise and rules of origin etc.)
2. **Professional advice** – grants can be used to obtain professional advice which may include:
 - ensuring that the business can meet its customs, excise, import VAT or safety and security declaration requirements.

Additional points to note are that:

- all qualifying expenditure must have been made **on or after 11 February 2021**
- qualifying expenditure must have been incurred **AFTER** receipt of a grant offer
- must include acceptable evidence of the expenditure in full, on submission of a claim for payment
- any claim for payment must be submitted within two calendar months of the grant offer being **issued or by 31 August 2021 at the latest**

APPLICATION PROCESS

The process for making the application for grant funds is made online (**through PWC**) as follows:

1. Register on the **BREXIT Support Fund** website (**see link above**)
2. Provide basic information on the business including VAT number, EORI, AEO etc
3. Provide information on the proposed Training or Professional advice that is required
4. Obtain the successful confirmation of Grant funding offer - by email
5. Complete the funded activities
6. Submit the required evidence and obtain payment or reimbursement of the costs

WHY CONSIDER THE BREXIT SUPPORT FUND ??

Katherine Green, director general, borders and trade at HMRC, said: ***'We recognise that changes to customs rules have been challenging for small and micro businesses, and this is why we are encouraging business owners to apply for support through the SME Brexit Support Fund.'***

'We do not take for granted that the UK's small businesses – from designers creating bespoke handmade pieces from their kitchen tables, to those selling sweet treats – are vital to the growth and prosperity of our economy, so we look forward to supporting them with practical help to do business with our European partners, on top of a wide range of support available from the government.'

Mike Cherry, Federation of Small Businesses national chairman, said: ***'The vast majority of UK small firms that do business overseas trade with the EU. Not only are they trying to stay afloat as lockdowns gradually ease, they now have new, unfamiliar paperwork and costs to navigate when they buy from, or sell to, Europe.'***

'We encourage all eligible small businesses to take a look and apply for this new source of help.'

Contact the SAKURA Team on clientservices@sakurabusiness.co.uk or at 0207 952 1230 if you need support with applying for an EORI or preparing for importing/exporting to the EU in 2021 !