

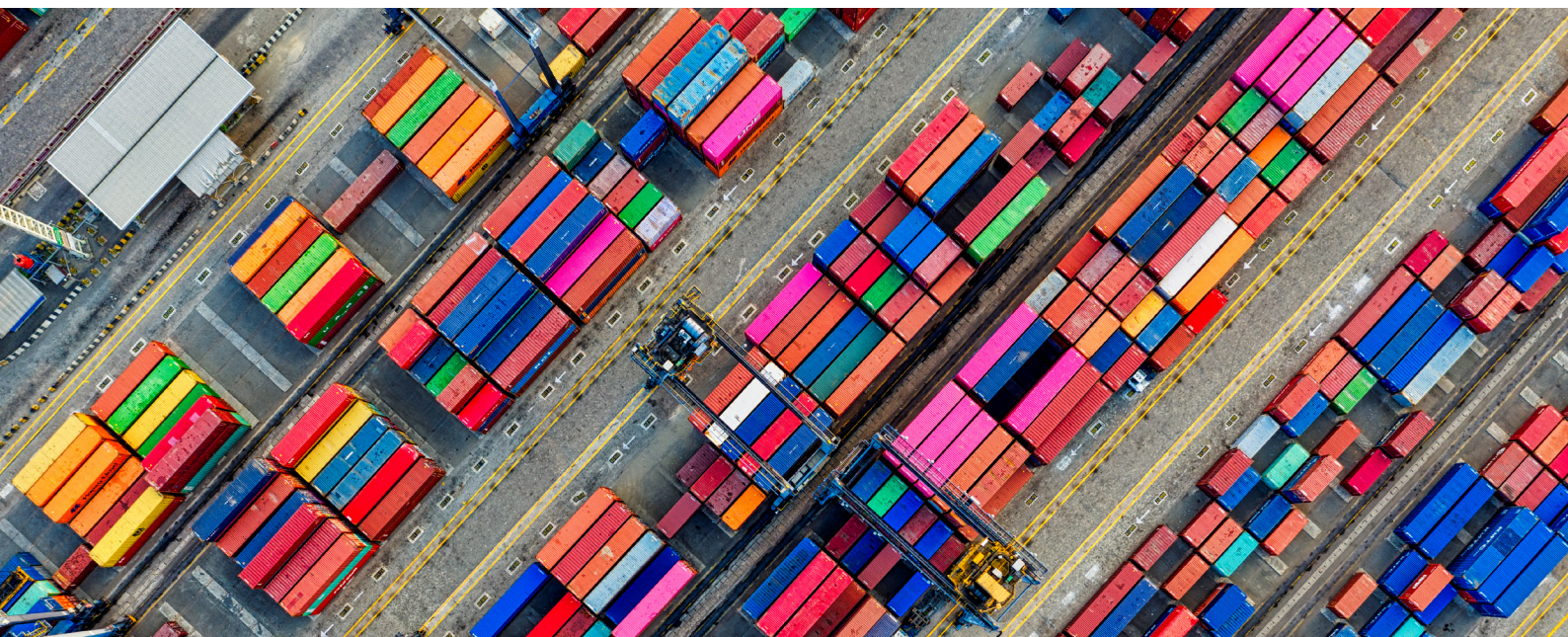
The Economy, Trade and Jobs

Key Focus: Trading Standards

The UK's current trading arrangements with the EU will continue until the end of December 2020.

The EU single market means EU countries can trade easily with each other. The EU sets clear quality standards which help make sure food and products are good quality. This makes it easy to trade within the EU because everyone is following the same rules about quality when making their products.

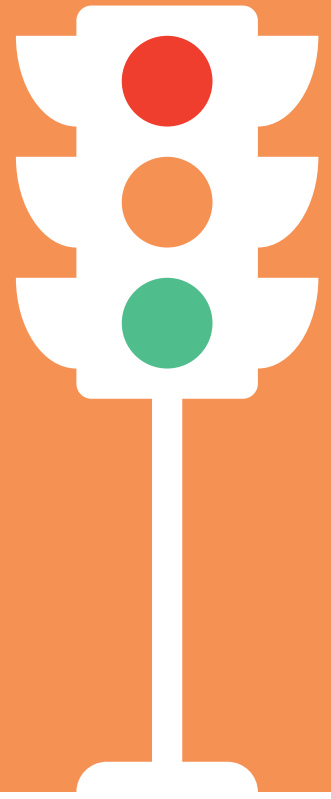
Being part of the EU Single Market has meant the UK can't make its own trade deals with other countries. The UK is currently exploring and trying to agree trade deals with the EU and countries outside the EU.





What do we want?

- Although products can be made more cheaply by having lower standards, we think having high standards is important, as it helps keep people safe and is the morally right thing to do.
- We should try to have high food and product standards so we can continue to trade with EU countries. We should try to keep these at around the same level but we should go higher than a minimum standard required if we can.
- We discussed media reports about possible imports of chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-treated beef, and the fact that haggis is banned in the USA! We feel it is particularly important to have high quality standards for farming and food preparation, and that there should be a traffic light scoring system for food quality to help keep people informed. A similar system is already in place to show the level of saturated fat, sugar and salt in the food we buy.
- We don't mind if having higher trading standards means that it is harder for us to trade with some countries. We might lose trade opportunities with the EU if we don't do this.



What are we doing?

We are contacting Liz Truss MP who is the Secretary of State for International Trade for the UK Government and Michael Russell MSP who is the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs in Scotland.



Liz Truss MP



Michael Russell MSP

