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Trade Developments
2 September 2026

Welcome to this edition of Trade Developments, brought to you by Deloitte's trade policy team in the UK. This newsletter brings you curated insights, updates and analysis, helping you to understand and navigate the complexities of the rapidly evolving trade landscape.

For in-depth resources and support, check out our dedicated webpage or contact our team at tradesupport@deloitte.co.uk.

UK-India Trade Agreement: Deloitte Event Series

Join Deloitte and the UK-India Business Council at our upcoming series of events to explore what the new Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) means for businesses, including practical insights into how you can optimally leverage the expanded market access across various sectors.

We welcome CFOs, Tax Heads, Customs & Trade Leaders, and Supply Chain Leaders to join us at one of our events:

- Manchester: Tuesday 15 September, 16:00-19:00, Deloitte Manchester
- London: Wednesday 16 September, 14:00-17:00, Deloitte London

Please contact tradesupport@deloitte.co.uk to register.

New UK government

Andy Burnham became the new UK Prime Minister on 20 July, following Keir Starmer's resignation. Burnham has spoken of his desire to "reindustrialise Britain" and to see "more world-beating British manufacturers and service providers at the frontier of new technology and exporting to the world".

On becoming Prime Minister, Burnham decided to merge the former Department for Business and Trade (DBT) with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to create the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (DBIST). Jonathan Reynolds has been appointed as Secretary of State, having previously held the role of Business & Trade Secretary between July 2024 and September 2025. Outgoing Scottish Labour party leader Lord Anas Sarwar replaces Sir Chris Bryant as Trade Minister.

US tariffs on drones

President Trump issued a Proclamation concerning drones and their components on 13 August, under the authority of Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended. Rates vary depending on the level of national security threat imposed by the drones, and where the drones originate.

The Proclamation imposes a duty rate of 10% on drones and components from the UK, so long as critical components and technology originate from the US, UK, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, or an EU Member State. The tariff will apply from 3 September for drones which are more sensitive for national security, and from 9 February 2027 for less sensitive drones. The White House Proclamation can be found here.

UK Government update on US tariffs

The UK Government has updated its webpage tracking the UK's trade negotiations with the US to include details of recent changes to the US tariff regime. Details are provided on the current 10% tariff rate, as well as exemptions for UK-produced whisky and certain medical technology exports. The guidance notes that the UK currently has "the same rate or better than the EU on over £40 billion of US goods imports from the UK in 2024 (around 90% of total)". The online collection also brings together key information on the UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal and the wider UK-US trade negotiation process. Find out more here.

UK-EU relationship

Prime Minister Andy Burnham met European Council President António Costa in the margins of his official visit to Ukraine on 23 August, with the two leaders discussing the future of the UK-EU relationship. The Prime Minister said that the UK needed to be "bolder" and that there was a need for greater ambition to deliver a step change in relations.

The meeting provides a further signal of the government's intention to pursue a closer relationship with the EU. The UK-EU summit due to take place later this year (postponed from July) will provide an opportunity for Burnham's new government to build on the commitments agreed at the first UK-EU summit in May 2025 which led to the UK-EU Common Understanding. The government's statement can be found here.

CPTPP comes into force between UK and Canada

From 1 September 2026, UK businesses are able to trade with Canada under the terms of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), following Canada's completion of its domestic ratification process to approve the UK's accession in July. Canada was the last of all existing CPTPP members to ratify the UK's accession to the agreement, so from 1 September the UK will be able to trade under CPTPP terms with all 11 other members. The UK government page on CPTPP can be found here.

UK-Morocco procurement agreement

The UK government has launched a call for evidence on a potential new chapter on government procurement within the existing UK-Morocco Association Agreement. The proposed chapter would establish legally binding commitments on government procurement between the two countries, providing UK suppliers with greater access to Moroccan public contracts and enabling an open, transparent and non-discriminatory procurement framework.

This would represent the UK's first legally binding procurement commitments with Morocco and with an African country, building on a memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries in June 2025 to strengthen procurement cooperation.

Morocco is not currently a member of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, and the UK has no existing international procurement commitments with Morocco. The Moroccan public procurement market is estimated to be worth around £33 billion over the next three years. The call for evidence is open until 11 September 2026 and can be found here.

UK duty suspensions

On 5 August, a new set of UK duty suspensions came into effect. The suspensions, which apply until 31 December 2028, reduce or remove customs duties on eligible goods across 22 chapters of the UK Global Tariff, covering sectors including food and beverages, specialist chemicals, textiles and manufacturing.

The new duty suspensions have come in response to the 2025-2026 duty suspension application window. The new suspensions do not apply to goods originating from Russia or Belarus. The list of new duty suspensions can be found here.

Anti-dumping duties on boom lifts

The government has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of boom lifts from China, effective from 20 August, following the Trade Remedies Authority's (TRA) recommendation. The measures follow an investigation which found evidence that Chinese boom lifts were being sold in the UK at artificially low prices and had affected the domestic industry.

Duties ranging from 16.25% to 71.74% will apply to imports from Chinese producers for up to six months, or until a definitive remedy is implemented. The TRA said that applying provisional measures is in the economic interest of the UK and will help protect domestic producers from unfair competition. The TRA's announcement can be found here.

TRA investigation into PET

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) has launched a safeguard investigation into imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). The investigation will assess whether increased imports are causing damage to the UK's PET production. PET is used in a range of products including beverage bottles food packaging and textiles, with UK imports valued at more than £300 million in 2025. The investigation covers imports between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025. If the TRA finds that safeguard action is warranted, any resulting measure could take the form of an additional duty on imports. The government's press release can be found here.

The TRA has invited interested parties, including upstream and downstream businesses, to participate in the investigation. Further details are available on the TRA's public file.

Deloitte Analysis: UK Trade Strategy

A little over a year after Keir Starmer's government published the UK's Trade Strategy, Britain has a new Prime Minister with a new set of priorities. Our latest insight article examines the 2025 Trade Strategy in light of Prime Minister Andy Burnham's new economic agenda, which prioritises issues such as economic security, reindustrialisation and devolution. Read our analysis here.

What do Andy Burnham's priorities mean for the UK's trade strategy?

A little over a year after Keir Starmer's government published the UK's Trade Strategy, Britain has a new Prime Minister with a new set of priorities.

On coming to office, Andy Burnham set out a series of aims and priorities for his government including the aspiration of "reindustrialising Britain and "rewiring the state", devolving greater power to local areas.

Find out more

What does the UK-Switzerland FTA mean for businesses?

On 13 July 2026, the UK and Switzerland announced the conclusion of negotiations on an enhanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA), following just over three years of talks. The UK government has called it the 'most significant' trade deal for services the country has ever concluded. The enhanced FTA builds on the continuity agreement that has underpinned UK-Switzerland trade since Brexit.

Find out more

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