BUSINESS GROWTH SERVICE

UK - India FTA Entry into Force Partner Toolkit

The UK-India FTA has entered into force

The UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), also known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), entered into force on **15 July 2026**, marking a landmark moment in the economic partnership between the United Kingdom and India.

The agreement unlocks new opportunities for businesses of all sizes, supporting trade, investment and economic growth across both countries.

To help businesses understand and utilise the commercial opportunities the agreement presents, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has developed a range of guides, tools, and support resources. We would be grateful for your support in helping to raise awareness of these resources across your networks.

This partner toolkit provides key information about the agreement, links to business guides and ready-to-use promotional materials that can be shared through your channels to help organisations explore the opportunities available under the UK-India trade deal.

Contents

Overview of the FTA

The UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is designed to make trade between the UK and India cheaper, faster and easier. By reducing tariffs, improving market access, and cutting barriers to trade, the agreement will help businesses seize new opportunities in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.

The agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade between the UK and India by £25.5 billion annually in the long term, while boosting the UK economy by £4.8 billion and increasing UK wages by £2.2 billion each year.[1] Businesses and communities in every corner of the UK will benefit from this trade deal with India, with every region and nation's local economy (real quantity GVA) expected to grow, including a £190m boost for the West Midlands and Scotland and £210m for the North West.[2]

Covering goods, services, investment, and government procurement, the FTA will provide greater certainty for businesses, strengthen the UK and India's trading relationship, and create new opportunities for businesses of all sizes to grow, export, and expand internationally.

Key Links

- FTA overview
- FTA text
- Chapter summaries
- India market guide

FTA guides for businesses

To help businesses make the most of the opportunities created by the UK-India FTA, DBT has developed a comprehensive suite of practical guides.

This includes a range of **policy** and **sector-specific** guides, designed to help businesses understand what the agreement means for them, identify potential opportunities, and navigate the practical steps required to access FTA benefits.

Whether a business is new to trading with India or looking to expand its existing presence in the market, these resources provide clear, accessible and actionable information, and support businesses to understand and utilise the agreement with confidence.

All guides are available via the **India market page** on **business.gov.uk**.

Policy guides

- Government Procurement
- Rules of Origin
- Tariffs and Customs
- Trading goods and services digitally
- Travelling to India for work

Sector guides

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Clean Energy
- Consumer and Retail
- Creative Industries
- Food and Drink
- Infrastructure
- Life Sciences
- Professional and Business Services
- Technology

Claiming FTA preferential tariffs

HMRC authentication portal

From 15 July, a claim for preferential tariff treatment can be made by the importer on the basis of an origin declaration completed by the UK producer or exporter. To do this, **UK producers or exporters must register with HMRC before completing origin declarations for exports to India**. If an exporter is not registered with HMRC, origin declarations will be rejected and the Indian importer will not be able to claim preferential tariff rates.

Who needs to register?

Businesses need to register with HMRC if the following apply:

- they are a UK producer or exporter exporting goods originating in the UK to India, and
- they want their goods to qualify for preferential tariffs under the UK–India FTA

How the authentication process works

- HMRC shares a database of registered UK exporters with Indian customs authorities
- For each shipment, the UK exporter sends an origin declaration to the Indian importer and copies it to Indian customs so it can be authenticated
- Indian customs check the declaration against the HMRC database before applying preferential tariffs

Refer to the **HMRC portal page on GOV.UK** and the **Rules of Origin guide** for more information.

Claiming FTA preferential tariffs

Proof of origin for UK exports to India

The exporter or producer must complete an **origin declaration** to show that the goods meet the rules of origin. The declaration must be completed in English.

The correct origin declaration template must be used. The layout of the origin declaration template is different from the formats used under other UK free trade agreements.

Complete the origin declaration electronically where possible, using the Word or Excel **template on GOV.UK**, however, you must **convert the document to PDF** before emailing to India Customs for authentication.

Please note that the process differs for Indian exports to the UK.

Please refer to the **Rules of Origin guide** for more information.

Origin Declaration
United Kingdom - India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

1. Signatory ☐ **Exporter** ☐ **Producer**

Signatory's Name:
Title:
E-mail Address:
Telephone Number:

Reporting implementation issues

To ensure the agreement delivers its intended benefits, we rely on feedback from businesses and trade associations on their experiences using the FTA in practice.

Businesses experiencing market access barriers or implementation issues in India are encouraged to engage with DBT through our existing Export Support Service and to report issues via the **Report a Trade Barrier** service.

Where appropriate, businesses may also wish to work with their trade associations to raise and evidence issues collectively, helping to build a stronger picture of challenges affecting wider sectors and supporting DBT's engagement with the Indian authorities.

How you can help

We would welcome your support in helping businesses **understand**, **utilise**, and **benefit** from the opportunities created by the UK-India FTA.

You can help by sharing news that the agreement is now in force, promoting the guides and resources available to businesses, and raising awareness of the support available through DBT on **business.gov.uk**.

We also encourage you to share relevant communications and **social media content** on your channels, signpost businesses to the suite of business guides and practical resources, and highlight the services available to support companies looking to trade with or expand in India.

Please do **encourage businesses to get in touch** if they have questions about the agreement or encounter barriers when trading with India. DBT is committed to helping businesses navigate new markets and make the most of the opportunities created by the UK-India FTA.

You can do this by

1. **Posting on social media** (LinkedIn preferred)
2. **Including in your newsletter/email** (or weekly bulletin if relevant)
3. **Sharing with your networks** (member emails and WhatsApp groups)

Suggested communications materials for use across your channels are provided below.

Share the announcement on social media

LinkedIn

🎉 The UK-India Free Trade Agreement has now entered into force 🎉

UK businesses can now benefit from preferential access when trading with India. If you are a UK goods exporter, you must register on the HMRC portal to benefit from tariff reductions: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-to-complete-origin-declarations-under-the-uk-india-free-trade-agreement

The Department for Business and Trade has published a range of practical policy and sector guides to help business understand the opportunities available under the agreement, including tariffs, rules of origin, government procurement and sector-specific opportunities. You can check them out below 👇

✅ Policy guides: https://www.business.gov.uk/export-from-uk/markets/india/trade-agreement/
✅ Sector guides: https://www.business.gov.uk/export-from-uk/markets/india/sector/

#UKIndiaFTA #Exporting #DrivingGrowth

X (Twitter)

Post 1

The UK-India FTA entered into force on 15 July 2026 which means UK businesses can now benefit from preferential access when trading with India.

Explore the UK-India FTA – policy and sector guides on business.gov.uk: https://www.business.gov.uk/export-from-uk/markets/india/#:~:text=UK%E2%80%99s%20free%20trade,utilise%20the%20agreement.

Post 2

The UK-India FTA has entered into force as of 15 July 2026, and UK businesses can now benefit from preferential access when trading with India

If you are a UK goods exporter, you must register on the HMRC portal to benefit from tariff reductions: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-to-complete-origin-declarations-under-the-uk-india-free-trade-agreement

Share the announcement in your newsletter and/or website

Newsletter / member email

Subject: UK–India FTA Entry into Force
Body:
The UK-India Free Trade Agreement entered into force on 15 July, making it easier for UK businesses to trade with one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies.

If you are a UK goods exporter or producer, you must register on the **HMRC UK-India FTA** portal to benefit from tariff reductions. If a UK business has not registered with HMRC, origin declarations will be rejected, and the importer will not be able to claim preference.

To help businesses understand and utilise the agreement, the Department for Business and Trade has published a suite of practical **policy and sector guides** covering areas such as tariffs and customs, rules of origin and government procurement, alongside sector-specific guides highlighting opportunities in the Indian market.

Businesses can also access tailored support through the **Business Growth Service** which serves as the gateway to a suite of support including the **Export Digital Enquiry Service**, **UK Export Finance** and DBT's network of in-market trade experts through **ESS-IM**.

To ensure the agreement delivers its intended benefits, we rely on feedback from businesses and trade associations on their experiences using the FTA in practice.

Businesses experiencing market access barriers outside of the FTA are encouraged to engage with DBT through our existing Export Support Service and to report issues via the '**Report a Trade Barrier**' service.

DBT support

Businesses looking to utilise the UK-India FTA, enter the Indian market, or expand their existing trade with India can access a range of government support through the **Business Growth Service (BGS)**. The BGS is where DBT has integrated its business support in a single, accessible place, designed to help businesses across the UK start, scale and succeed globally. It acts a gateway to export support including:

- **Export Digital Enquiry Service:** Get support on how to do business abroad, including advice relevant to exporting to India. Eligible businesses may also be able to access 1-2-1 export support through DBT's Business Growth Advisers.

- **Export Support Service – International Markets (ESS-IM):** DBT's overseas in-market export support service for SMEs with high-export potential. Our International Market Advisers provide tailored support and market introduction information to new and current UK exporters looking to enter or expand into new markets. The service may be accessed globally with International Markets teams in South Asia.

- **Business Academy:** Access free training, events and on-demand learning to help build export knowledge, including support relevant to trading with India and making use of the UK-India FTA.

- **UK Export Finance**: Information on finance and insurance for UK exports, including businesses selling goods or services to India.

DBT support

- **Trade and investment factsheets:** The latest statistics on trade and investment between the UK and overseas partners, including India.

- **Overseas business risk profiles:** Information for UK businesses on political, economic and security risks when trading overseas, including India.

- **Foreign travel advice:** Advice and warnings about travel abroad, including India-specific entry requirements, safety and security, health risks and legal differences.

- **Check or report a trade barrier:** If you encounter an issue when exporting to India, report the issue and UK government officials will assess it and consider the options available to address it where appropriate.

- **Check how to export goods:** Search for your specific product to find applicable tariffs for India, explore rules of origin and access step-by-step help on customs procedures.

- **UK Integrated Online Tariff:** Check import duties and access tariff information, including information that may be relevant when importing goods from India into the UK.

- **DBT India Network**: In-market expertise and support for UK businesses entering or expanding in India, including advice on the local business environment and relevant contacts.

Contact

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the FTA Utilisation Team at DBT: Okkor Habibi or Rachel Spiegelhalter.

References

[1] FTA overview
[2] Impact assessment of the Free Trade Agreement between the UK and India