

BVA response to Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee follow up questions on TCA

We welcome the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's questions on the TCA, given the nature of our organisation, we will focus our response on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ).

How has the provision of trade in services in the EU changed for UK based businesses and individuals following Brexit (including examples from within your sector)?

Not for us to answer.

How does the TCA currently operate for UK service providers seeking to provide services in the EU (including examples of how the arrangements are working in practice within your sector)?

Not for us to answer.

How are the Scottish and UK Governments supporting UK service providers operating in the EU in negotiating the new trading environment following Brexit? And is there more support the Scottish and UK Governments can provide to UK service providers operating in the EU?

Not for us to answer.

In what ways would reaching agreements on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) support service providers? And what should any MRPQ agreements contain?

1. The UK is highly reliant on EU vets, particularly in certain sectors of veterinary work such as public health and laboratory work, including research. For laboratory work, there is not laboratory animal specialism accredited centre in the UK, so generally it is graduates from the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) accredited by the European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM) taking these roles; and they are predominantly from outside the UK.
2. In our report "Brexit and the veterinary profession" published in 2017 BVA already recommended in the short-term that the UK Government should add veterinary professionals to the Shortage Occupation List or its equivalent and extend/continue to recognise existing MRPQ legislation through a transitional arrangement to mitigate against a sudden reduction in the veterinary workforce.
3. The UK Government in 2019 added veterinary professionals to the Shortage Occupation List which was welcomed by us and many veterinary organisations.
4. The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement allows for Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) to be negotiated on a sector-by-sector basis, and professional bodies on both sides can propose MRAs for the UK and EU to consider. Existing agreements on MRPQ include [EU/Canada which grants semi-automatic recognition to architects](#)¹, and in 2023 the UK Financial Reporting Council signed a [MoU on reciprocal arrangements](#)² with its New Zealand equivalent under the UK-New Zealand trade agreement. This allows New

¹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-canada-lay-foundations-free-movement-architects-2022-03-21_en

² <https://www.frc.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/09/uk-and-new-zealand-audit-authorities-agree-mutual-recognition-of-audit-qualifications/>

Zealand-qualified auditors to apply to have their qualifications recognised in the UK, and vice-versa.

5. The new government has committed to negotiating a veterinary agreement with the EU. BVA believes that it could be beneficial for a future veterinary agreement to consider introducing MRPQs with some veterinary schools in Europe with equivalent syllabus and curriculum that are training veterinary surgeons to similar standards to schools in the UK. This could help with the current workforce shortages in some areas such as public health.

How do the mobility arrangements under the TCA work for UK service providers? It'd be helpful if you were able to include examples of professions where the arrangements are working well and where they are more challenging.

Not for us to answer.

How might the mobility arrangements between the EU and the UK sit alongside any possible MRPQ agreements? For example, would mobility requirements mean that service providers would be unable to take full advantage of any MRPQ agreements?

Not for us to answer.