



Commercial & Business customers:
Your guide to Brexit



NatWest

Introduction to Brexit

Our number one priority is to serve and support our customers.

Following the June 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union (EU), the UK Government started the exit process by triggering Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union in March 2017. The UK exit from the EU is being referred to as 'Brexit'.

The EU and UK Government have agreed to delay the date from when the UK was due to leave the EU from 31 October 2019 to 31 January 2020 under the Article 50 process.

There are no immediate changes to your banking services as a result of the extension to Article 50.

We'll continue to support you and keep you informed and updated.

You can find out more about what Brexit means for you by taking a look at the information in this customer guide or visiting our Brexit hub on our customer website.

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What this means for business?

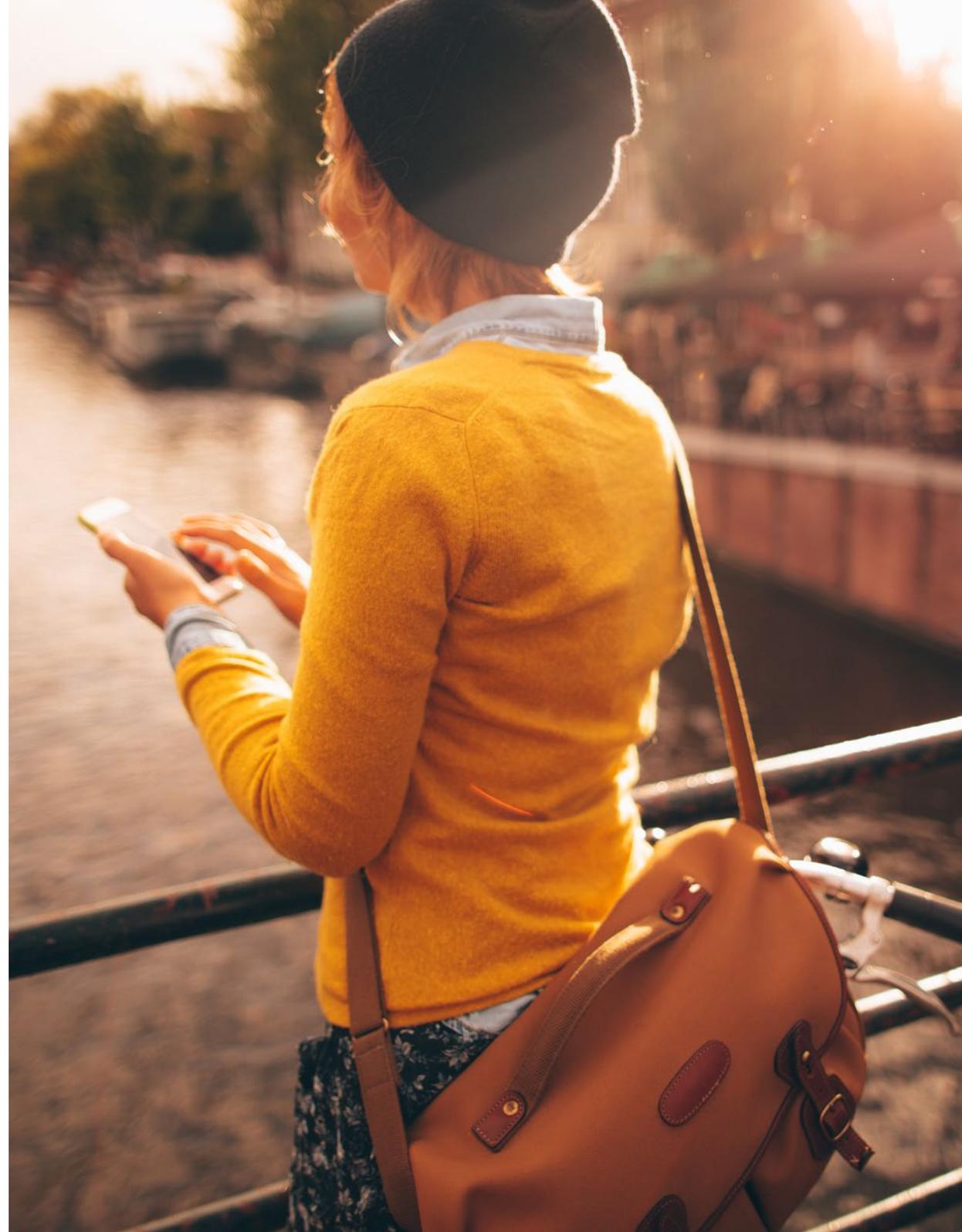
There are no immediate changes to your banking services while the UK remains a member of the EU.

We've already made changes to the way we're organised to ensure we can serve customers when the UK leaves the EU.

We're closely monitoring the situation and we're aiming to provide you with as much notice as possible should any changes be required. Our aim is to continue to provide you with the same level of service and range of products as we do today and to minimise disruption to our customers' business.

What this means for your business?

Regardless of the outcomes of the Brexit negotiations, we're committed to helping you and your business succeed. With our experience, we're here to support you with the opportunities and challenges that Brexit could potentially bring to your business.



How we are prepared for Brexit

As our business is largely UK-focused, the direct impact on NatWest is not as significant as it is for many other banks.

We've been operating our banking entity in the Netherlands, NatWest Markets N.V. since 25 March 2019. We're serving some of our non-UK EEA customers and have transferred our Western Europe Corporate Coverage business into NatWest Markets N.V.

Based in Amsterdam, NatWest Markets N.V. has branches in London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Madrid, Milan, Paris and Stockholm. NatWest Markets N.V. offers the same products and services that NatWest Markets Plc provides from the UK, with connections to the market infrastructure providers needed to serve you, including trading venues and counterparty clearing houses.

Our Ulster Bank Ireland DAC business will continue to provide services for our customers that do business in the Republic of Ireland.

We're here to support you with the opportunities and challenges that Brexit could bring you

We're involved in a number of consultations with key UK bodies to help us keep abreast of the latest developments for the Financial Services sector, post Brexit, and will regularly review our plans to ensure we are Brexit ready. These bodies include

- UK Government
- Bank of England
- UK Finance
- HM Treasury (HMT), and
- our regulators
 - the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)
 - Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

We will continue to monitor the situation, assess how the final agreement will affect you and keep you updated on how we can help you through any changes this will bring.

Frequently asked questions

What does Brexit mean?

“Brexit” is the short-hand term being used to describe the UK’s exit from the European Union (EU).

The UK voted to leave the EU following a referendum in June 2016. In March 2017, the UK Government started the process of leaving the EU by triggering Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

What is Article 50?

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union is a provision in law which sets out how a Member State can leave the EU.

What happens next?

Now that the EU and UK Government have agreed to delay the date from when the UK was due to leave the EU from 31 October 2019 to 31 January 2020 under the Article 50 process. There are no immediate changes to your banking services as a result of this extension.

What does it mean for me as a customer?

There are no immediate changes to your banking services while the UK remains a member of the EU. We are closely monitoring the situation and we’re committed to providing you with as much notice as possible should any changes be required.

What is the transition period?

A transition period is included in the October 2019 Withdrawal Agreement. The transition period would run until the end of 2020 with an option to extend for up to two years. It would allow the UK to continue to participate in the European Single Market and means that UK banks would continue to have access to the European Single Market using Financial Services Passporting rights.

The transition period would need to be ratified as part of the October 2019 Withdrawal Agreement by the UK and European parliaments, plus formally approved by the European Council so it’s not yet legally agreed.

What is passporting?

Passporting (also known as Financial Services Passporting) allows us as a bank to sell our financial services in the EU, so that it’s as easy to lend to a customer in Madrid as it is to lend to a customer in Manchester. It also means that some of the foreign banks who have offices here in the UK can sell their financial services into EU countries and in the UK.

How will the Bank operate if EU passporting is removed?

To prepare for the possible loss of EU passporting we’re using our banking entity in the Netherlands, NatWest Markets N.V. to provide continuity of service from NatWest Markets N.V. to our non-UK EEA customers. As the Netherlands is a member of the EU, we’ll be able to use EU passporting rights for NatWest Markets N.V. to serve EEA customers.

Why does passporting need to be removed when we leave the EU?

Passporting is intrinsic to the Single Market and will not be available to the UK after Brexit. The UK Government in its [July 2018 white paper](#) stated that its proposal for the economic partnership would include new arrangements on services and investments that provide regulatory flexibility.

Which countries are in the EU?

The EU currently consists of: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

We’ll make sure there’s minimal disruption to our customers’ business.

Which countries are included in the European Economic Area (EEA)?

The EEA includes EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. It allows them access to the EU’s single market.

Switzerland is neither an EU nor EEA member but is part of the single market – this means Swiss nationals have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

Would a UK citizen living in the EU lose access to their banking in the UK?

There is as yet no specific guidance on UK banking. It’s expected that there will be no change during the Article 50 extension period.

Will there be any changes to my ability to make payments in Euros from the UK post Brexit?

Post-Brexit our access to Euro payment capability for our customers will remain as it is today.

Further information

For more information on Brexit:

NatWest Brexit site

<https://personal.natwest.com/personal/support-centre/brexit-hub.html>

NatWest Brexit Business site

<https://www.business.natwest.com/business/>

FCA Brexit site

<https://www.fca.org.uk/eu-withdrawal>

UK Government Brexit site

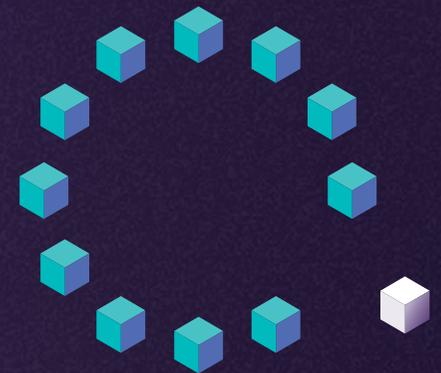
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-exiting-the-european-union>

Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Brexit site

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/business-issues/brexit-and-eu-negotiations/>

UK Finance - Let's talk business

<https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/policy-and-guidance/guidance/lets-talk-business>



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