

Trade in Services

Key facts

- 1 The UK leaves the Single Market, including Services
- 2 World Trade Organization rules may replace free movement of services
- 3 Local (host-country) rules will apply
- 4 There may be no mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- 5 In some cases service providers will have to be based in the EU, appoint a representative or have an EU-hosted website
- 6 Access to UK and EU services markets will need to be negotiated

When the UK leaves the EU, the free movement of services will end. This means that UK firms will be in an outside country when selling services to the EU, and barriers can be expected. World Trade Organization rules (the [General Agreement for Trade in Services - GATS](#)) will become the baseline for accessing the EU and UK services markets, and local rules will apply when trading with EU countries.

To do

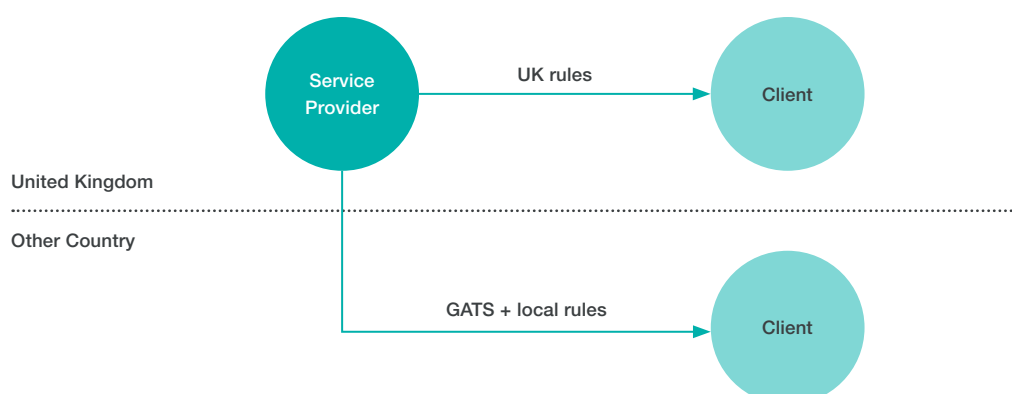
To anticipate the new commercial environment for trade in services, businesses need to consider the following aspects:

Laws

- Read the Government's [general factsheet on the services sector](#)
- Find out about [changes to rules for your specific sector](#): e.g. audiovisual, finance, transport, e-commerce etc.
- Find out about the [local rules in your customer's country](#) through the [Government's country-by-country guides](#)

Providing services from the United Kingdom after EU exit

Applicable rules



Professional qualifications, licences and authorisations

- Examples include doctors, nurses, midwives, dental practitioners, pharmacists, architects, surgeons, auditors
- Find out if your qualifications and licences will be recognised in the country you are active in via the [Centre for Professional Qualifications](#) (0871 226 2850, 11p per minute)
- Visit the national contact points in the EU member states via this [website](#) and the [EUGO Points of Single Contact](#), and consider whether to create commercial presence in the EU

Employment and mobility requirements

- Find out about local immigration policies and work permits in EU member states, in particular if [staying more than 90 days in a 6-month period](#)

Tax

- Consider the [VAT](#) implications of selling your services to the EU

What's next?

If the UK leaves the EU without ratifying the Withdrawal Agreement ('no deal'), barriers to services trade are expected to happen. They can be mitigated in the long term if the UK and the EU negotiate a trade agreement. This is an example of a [Services Chapter](#) in a Free Trade Agreement.

For more information on EU exit and your business, contact:

BEST Growth Hub

01702 41776 or

info@bestgrowthhub.org.uk

BEST Growth Hub

info@bestgrowthhub.org.uk

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