

Dear Chamber Colleagues

Re: Virtual Documentation Call – 7th April 2020

The call was led by Liam Smyth (BCC)

LS apologised for the late start to the meeting as he had been stuck on a call with Saudi Arabia officials negotiating for the network the ability to use electronic stamps and signatures on documents. LS reported that good progress had been made and an announcement regarding this would be made shortly. LS further reported that progress was being made with in discussions with Tunisia and Qatar.

A number of Chambers reported that working by post was becoming an issue as they have seen the number of standard applications rising as exporters staff working from home do not have the right printers at home to print the documents. Some documentation staff are having the same issue while working from home. BCC will look at low cost laser printer suppliers and costs to recommend to traders.

Greater Manchester Chamber reported that a number of exporters had complained that cargo handling fees at ports had been increased and this was having an impact on exporters and importers.

LS informed the meeting that a new portal has been created for documentation returns which will go live for the April returns being logged in May. The site will be similar to the old system but will ask for return information at a branch level where appropriate and will ask for invoices and other documents certified to be recorded separately. A pilot test is planned during April when IB's will be asked to record March figures as a test for functionality and user feedback.

The next meeting will be held virtually at 4.00pm on Tuesday 14th April.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/381830429?pwd=Wm1kZ0hwN0xkQXQ0ZXJ0bGVXcjlwUT09>

Meeting ID: 381 830 429

Password: 017082

Also attached is a note regarding Force Majeure that has been produced by the ICC which your members may find useful. The note can be added to your website or circulated separately.