



Ein cyf/Our ref VG-PO-0288-23

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Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
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## Update on the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM)

Dear Paul,

When I wrote to you on 24 July, I explained that we were anticipating an announcement from the UK Government on the Border Target Operating Model (TOM) in the next week or so, but it was subsequently delayed.

I am pleased to confirm that the document has at last been published, and it is available on the UK Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-border-target-operating-model-august-2023>. As promised, I have also issued a Written Ministerial Statement.

Agreeing the TOM has taken months of collaborative work between officials across the different governments. As I set out in my WMS, there are clear benefits from having a coherent regime across Great Britain - not only in the interests of our collective biosecurity, but also in avoiding unnecessary complications for traders.

As a result of our involvement, we have developed a model which works for Wales. I was particularly pleased to secure agreement from the UK Government to modify the definition of Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (QNIGs), to reduce the incentive for traders to seek to avoid SPS controls by moving goods to Great Britain from the island of Ireland via Northern Ireland. This should significantly improve biosecurity and reduce the risk of trade being diverted away from Welsh ports. Of course, there remains more to be done, and we will continue to work collaboratively to reduce the remaining biosecurity risks, most notably from the import of commercial pets from the wider European Union.

I have repeatedly emphasised the need for controls on the west coast to be decided in the round. I will be discussing the start date for ID and physical checks with colleagues in the next month or so and will update you as soon as possible.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In the meantime, now that the TOM has been published, we can turn our attention more fully to the delivery plans for the Border Control Posts at Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke Dock.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy