

Helping businesses get Brexit-ready



Caithness Chamber of Commerce is the foremost business networking organisation in the area and aims to support every type of enterprise, from sole traders and small businesses to large corporate companies. In her latest Leader column, chamber chief executive **Trudy Morris** reminds businesses about a service the organisation is running that can help them get ready for Brexit



■ The Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) for the North Highlands and Islands are here to help you and your business as we count down to Brexit

With just a few months left until Brexit day, the continued uncertainty around the final outcome – and the growing potential for an economically damaging “no deal” Brexit – is having serious implications for business confidence.

While matters have taken a more positive turn over the past few months, with the white paper on the UK-EU relationship published in July, along with the recent release of two batches of technical notices on a “no deal” Brexit, much work remains to be done by negotiators on both sides.

As a Chamber representing over 200 businesses of all sizes and across

all sectors, we are well aware that our membership holds a variety of views on the UK’s relationship with the European Union, and we have no intention of taking sides in the ongoing debate between “leave” and “remain” supporters. Rather, it is our concern that it is the very uncertainty itself which is harming businesses.

Thankfully, through our contract to run the Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) for the North Highlands and Islands, we are well-placed to advise your business on how to get Brexit-ready.

Whether you need advice on citizens’ rights, importing and exporting after Brexit, or how changes to regulations might affect your business, our EDIC team is here to help.



Our EDIC team works hard to keep abreast of all the latest developments, so that you can focus on running your business

Through EDIC, we have direct access to experts at the European Commission, who are on hand to provide the most up-to-date information available.

We also have access to a team of European law experts who can help advise on the rights of your non-UK EU staff members, or any UK staff members based in EU member states.

We know that the language used in discussing the negotiations, and in the published papers and technical notices, is often complex and confusing, and our EDIC team is happy to work with you to help you understand these documents and recommend any key actions your business can take to help you prepare for the various scenarios.

Brexit is an ongoing process, and we know it can be difficult for businesses to keep track of the current state of play. That’s why our EDIC team works hard to keep abreast of all the latest developments, so that you can focus on running your business.

Indeed we are currently on our way to Brussels to meet up with other EDICs and hear direct from the European Commission on issues like the rights of EU and UK citizens after Brexit, EU-funded programmes and the latest Brexit negotiations

While the situation remains uncertain, businesses in the North Highlands and Islands can be assured that the Chamber’s EDIC team will be on hand to help.