

Global Britain Briefing Note

No 81

28th September 2012

This Global Britain Briefing Note, No. 81, updates & complements Global Britain Briefing Note No. 70, “EU Customs Duties”, dated 7th January 2011

UK Customs Duties: very low on average & reducing

- The overall real average rate of duty on imports of goods from outside the UK shrank by 26% between 2002 & 2011. *Table 1*
- The average rate of duty on imports of industrial goods, and on imports of agricultural & fish products, shrank between 2002 & 2010. *Table 2*
- Seventy-five per cent by value of all UK imports of goods from outside the EU bore zero customs duties in 2010. *Table 3*
- In 2010 the only significant categories of goods imports from outside the EU that bore average rates of customs duty in excess of 5% were footwear & clothing. With the exception of “edible fruit/nuts, citron peel”, “plastics/articles thereof” and “vehicles”, all other categories in the “top twenty by value imported” bore average rates of duty of less than 2%. *Table 4*

Table 1: Real Rate of UK Customs Duties on Imports of Goods from outside EU

Year	Customs Duties ¹ charged gross £ bn	Imports of Goods ² from non-EU £ bn	Rate of Duty charged %
2002	1.9	97	1.98
2003	1.9	100	1.94
2004	2.1	109	1.97
2005	2.2	122	1.83
2006	2.3	136	1.71
2007	2.4	141	1.71
2008	2.6	164	1.61
2009	2.6	148	1.79
2010	2.9	178	1.65
2011	2.9	197	1.47
2012			

1. Table 7.1.2, p. 243, *The Blue Book 2012*, www.statistics.gov.uk >Economy > National Accounts>*The Blue Book 2012*

2. Table 9.4: Imports: p. 161. *The Pink Book 2012*, www.statistics.gov.uk > Balance of Payments > *The Pink Book 2012*

Type of Import from outside EU	Value £ bn ¹	Gross Duty charged £ bn ¹	Average Rate of Duty in 2010 %	Average Rate of Duty in 2002 % ²
Industrial	172.7	2.42	1.4	1.6
Agr. & Fish	5.3	0.44	8.3	10.9%
<i>All types</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>2.87</i>	<i>1.61</i>	<i>1.91%</i>

1. HoL Col WA 193, HL989 & 990, Lord Sassoon to Lord Pearson, 5th July 2012
 2. Table 1, Global Britain Briefing Note No 33: *Customs Duties: hardly worth collecting*, 17.9.04, www.globalbritain.org

Imports of Goods from non-EU	Value £ bn	% value	Gross Duty charged £ bn	Average Rate of Duty %
Bearing a positive duty	45.0	25	2.87	6.4%
Bearing zero duty	133.0	75	zero	zero
<i>All imports from non-EU</i>	<i>178.0</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>2.87</i>	<i>1.61</i>

1. HoL Col WA 193, HL989 & 990, Lord Sassoon to Lord Pearson, 5th July 2012

Category	Average Rate of Duty Paid %	Value of Imports £ million ¹	Duty Paid £ million ¹
Footwear, gaiters etc	9.0	2439	220
Apparel/clothing not knitted	8.2	5223	428
Apparel/clothing knitted	5.6	5799	323
Edible fruit/nuts, citron peel	4.7	1899	90
Plastics/articles thereof	4.3	3032	130
Vehicles (inc. cars)	3.7	5510	202
Toys, games, sports equip.	1.9	3113	59
Articles of iron or steel	1.5	2243	33
Electr. Mach, TV/sound rec. equ.	1.5	17067	255
Organic chemicals	1.0	3281	34
Furniture, bedding, lighting equ.	0.9	3413	32
Optical/precision, med. equ.	0.8	4824	39
Inorg. chem., compounds pr. met.	0.7	1619	11
Nuclear reactors, boilers, mech. equ.	0.6	21558	131
Pearls, stones, prec. metals	0.2	10577	20
Pharmaceutical products	0.1	5278	4
Ores, slag, ash	0.1	1854	1
Aircraft, spacecraft & parts	0.02	11727	2
Mineral fuels & oils	0.003	31668	1
Works of art, antiques	negligible	2525	negligible

1. HoL Col WA HL 1206, Lord Sassoon to Lord Pearson, 12th July 2012

Global Britain

Lord Stoddart of Swindon

(Independent Labour)

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

(United Kingdom Independence Party)

Lord Willoughby de Broke

(United Kingdom Independence Party)

Lord Harris of High Cross *(1924- 2006)*

(Cross-Bencher)

Ian Milne

Director

Web : <http://www.globalbritain.org>

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