

**The British Florist Association urges UK Government to listen and take into consideration the needs of independent florists in Brexit negotiations.**



Thousands of people recently converged to the RHS Chelsea Flower with millions more enjoying the coverage on TV. However, the future may not be so rosy for parts of the UK's British flower scene if the British Government does not take the necessary steps to consider their needs in Brexit negotiations.

*Securing the best future for the UK Florist industry post Brexit.*

The challenge to secure the best possible future for the British Florist industry cannot be overlooked, because while floristry is a big industry, it's composed of many small local retailers, all of whom could be in serious danger.

The British Florist Association have been extremely proactive where Brexit researching and lobbying is concerned. They spearheaded a Brexit group, bringing together some of the most prominent figures and florist industries key players - Their aim to work together in unity, to agree a united UK Industry position on Brexit, to get the best result for British Florists.

**There are many issues that the BFA would like the UK Government to take into consideration while it negotiates a new trade deal with the EU.**

- To take into account the impact any future tariffs or tax levies may have on flower and plant material.
- To review, streamline or remove any unnecessary and burdensome EU regulations where appropriate.
- A relaxation of EU regulations concerning quality, control of pest and disease of goods, imported and exported.
- To co-operate with other organisations in EU countries.
- To have the ability to import and export without any interference of EU/UK legislation.
- To ensure that Florists can continue to work in the EU.
- To ensure that Florists from the EU are able work in the UK.
- To consider the implications of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on small businesses and regulate the UK legislation in line with the EU regulations that will come into force in May 2018.



# MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 90% of Florists throughout the UK think that Brexit will have a direct impact on their businesses and they're right to be concerned.

If no agreement is reached, Florist's share of the **€837 million worth of flowers** and plants crossing the channel from Holland annually could see an 8 -12 % tariff added to their costs. Not to mention the imports from the rest of the world.

At the same time if border controls delay the 7,000 lorries coming into the UK daily, it could present a major disadvantage to flower imports in the future. As if those concerns weren't enough add to that long delays caused by Customs checks that could have a detrimental effect on all perishable goods especially flowers.

The BFA are urging the voices of British Florists to be listened to. There is a serious concern that Brexit could pose a real danger to florist businesses as we know them. All of which will have a knock on effect to the British consumers that rely on talented florists to express their emotions be they happy or sad, help celebrate the milestones of their life or simply bring joy to them or their loved ones.

**For further information please see the official Brexit statement enclosed.**

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