

## Annex 1: UK IRC case studies examples

### **1) Collective action to fight the illegal wildlife trade**

The UK government has led international efforts to combat poaching and wildlife illegal trade. In 2018, the UK convened the largest ever global IWT conference at which 65 countries signed up to the London Declaration, committing to take urgent, coordinated action against the illegal wildlife trade.

Source: [\*the IRC government response\*](#)

### **2) Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) - Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN) and Tech Sprint**

The Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN) was formally launched in January 2019 by an international group of financial regulators and related organisations, including the FCA. This built on the FCA's early 2018 proposal to create a global sandbox. The FCA now leads and chairs the Network.

The GFIN is a network of more than 60 organisations committed to supporting financial innovation in the interests of consumers.

The GFIN seeks to provide a more efficient way for innovative firms to interact with regulators, helping them navigate between countries as they look to scale new ideas. This includes the ability to conduct a cross-border test – a solution for firms wishing to test innovative products, services or business models across more than one jurisdiction.

FCA also organises TechSprints are events that bring together participants from across and outside of financial services to develop technology-based ideas or proof of concepts to address specific industry challenges. These events help us to shine a light on issues and expand the discussion and awareness of potential solutions.

Source: *FCA website (see below)*

<https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/innovation/global-financial-innovation-network>

<https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/innovation/regtech/techsprints>

### **3) Work of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with the World Health Organisation on improving food safety**

The FSA coordinated the UK's support for a resolution at the World Health Organisation's Executive Board in Geneva. The resolution set out an ambitious global food safety agenda, aimed at improving national food safety systems, which over time is anticipated to lead to benefits for UK consumers through safer imported foods. It has now been adopted by the World Health Assembly.

Source: *FSA call for evidence response*

The FSA also has an international engagement strategy which sets out its approach to working internationally to ensure that food is safe.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-international-work>

### **4) The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) working with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on remotely piloted aircraft systems**

In 2014, ICAO formed a technical panel to develop international regulations for remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS). Development of RPAS regulations, while technical in nature, had many political and economic issues. The burgeoning industry was not familiar with the traditional methods of aviation regulation and was much more agile than regulators had been traditionally. This led to significant disagreements within the panel which could have threatened to disrupt the work.

Several working groups of the panel were formed to look at different aspects, The CAA provided subject matter experts to most groups and became the lead or pen holder in a number of them. The CAA became a member of the Panel and was elected Vice Chair. Through extensive work international counterparts, the CAA was able to begin bringing some consensus to the panel, and importantly, establish clear methods of holding individual groups to account for delivering their respective work packages. This has impacted positively on UK standing in ICAO and the innovation work, which continues to this day through the CAA Innovation Hub.

Source: CAA call for evidence response

## **5) HMRC working with the OECD on International VAT Guidelines**

The OECD has developed internationally agreed guidelines [[OECD International VAT/GST Guidelines](#)] to help ensure that country VAT systems interact consistently to reduce the incidence of double taxation or non-taxation for cross border supplies of services and goods so that applied rules facilitate rather than distort international trade.

The Guidelines form the first OECD consumption tax instrument, which, although non-binding, provide the global framework jurisdictions adhere to when implementing their own VAT laws.

These gained heightened prominence under Action 1 of the 2015 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Report which examined the tax challenges of the digital economy. In addition to the guidelines, the relevant Working Party (OECD Working Party 9 on Consumption Taxes - WP9) delivered a report on the VAT treatment of low value goods to address the challenges of the growth in international e-commerce trade of goods [[BEPS package](#)].

Further work since has resulted in reports on alternative VAT collection mechanisms [[Mechanisms for the Effective Collection of VAT/GST Where the Supplier Is Not Located in the Jurisdiction of Taxation](#)], the role of platforms in the collection to VAT/GST [[The Role of Digital Platforms in the Collection of VAT/GST on Online Sales](#)], and the role of platforms in the sharing economy [[The Impact of the Growth of the Sharing and Gig Economy on VAT/GST Policy and Administration | en | OECD](#)].

The UK has played, and continues to play, a leading role in the development of the guidelines and the associated reports, which have become the international standard and direction of travel.

The importance of VAT internationally and the role of WP9's work is evidenced by the increase in attendance of jurisdictions from across the world, regional and international organisations and businesses, to the OECD's Global Forum, the 5th of which was co-hosted by the Australian Government in 2019. This involved around 300 participants from over 100 jurisdictions, regional and international organisations and business and academia from around the world. Key outcomes of the meeting are further reflected in the [Press Release](#) that was issued at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Source: HMRC call for evidence response

## **6) MHRA: Access consortium**

The MHRA is part of the Access Consortium along with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Health Canada, Health Sciences Authority of Singapore and Swissmedic.

The consortium is a medium-sized coalition of regulatory authorities that work together to promote greater regulatory collaboration and alignment of regulatory requirements.

The original consortium, formed in 2007 and known as 'ACSS', comprised the national regulatory authorities of Australia, Canada, Singapore and Switzerland. In October 2020, the MHRA joined, and the group's name was changed to 'Access'. The MHRA will commence work-sharing applications with Access partners from 1 January 2021.

The consortium's goal is to maximise international co-operation between partners in the consortium, reduce duplication, and increase each agency's capacity to ensure patients have timely access to high quality, safe and effective therapeutic products.

The trend towards globalisation of therapeutic products industries and the rapid emergence of new technologies in the last decade accompanied with shared global challenges have created an increased need for regulatory bodies to co-operate and communicate with each other routinely. This maximises the use of up-to-date technical expertise, and ensures a consistent, contemporary approach to assessing the benefits and risks associated with the use of therapeutic products.

Source: gov.uk <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/access-consortium>

## **7) HMT work on the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF)**

HMT's membership of IPSF supports an approach to greening financial systems, and mobilising finance for clean and resilient growth and the aims of COP26.

The UK will contribute to the IPSF's goals to scale up the mobilisation of private capital towards environmentally sustainable finance at global level and promote integrated markets for environmentally sustainable finance which aim to deliver on our domestic and international commitments to tackle climate change.

The IPSF is a multilateral forum of dialogue between policymakers that focuses particularly on initiatives in the areas of taxonomies, disclosures, standards and labels, which are fundamental for investors to identify and seize investment opportunities worldwide that truly contribute to climate and environmental objectives. Members constitute 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 55% of global GDP.

Source gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-finance-uk-joins-the-international-platform-on-sustainable-finance-ipsf>

## **8) Department for International Trade (DIT) – Market Access Tool**

More of an IRC mechanism but DIT has an IRC related tool that allow British business to report issues preventing them from trading around the world.

Barriers include unnecessary, legal, regulatory or administrative requirements. This includes labelling restrictions, out-of-date regulations and licensing requirements.

The tool ensures British businesses can flag these issues and the government's trade experts can work with countries around the world to resolve them.

The online form allows any UK-based business to report a barrier that is stopping or hindering their trade and investment overseas.

Source gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-service-to-open-overseas-markets-for-uk-businesses>

#### 9) **Office of Nuclear Regulation International Convention on Nuclear Safety**

As a signatory to the Convention, the UK is required, on a three year cycle, to submit a report for review by other Contracting Parties and to participate in a peer review process. The Convention Report presents evidence as to how the UK meets its obligations in compliance with the Articles of the Convention (see Appendix) which are aimed at promoting high levels of safety in nuclear installations. The Convention work is therefore a significant and high-profile assurance project undertaken by ONR at the request of the UK Government (BEIS) and is also highly important for the reputation of ONR in the international arena.

The objectives of this Convention are:

- to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international co-operation including, where appropriate, safety-related technical co-operation;
- to establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards in order to protect individuals, society and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation from such installations; and
- to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and to mitigate such consequences should they occur.

Source ONR

<https://www.onr.org.uk/international-conventions.htm>

The ONR also has a framework sets out the priority objectives and criteria for our international engagement up to 2025.

<https://news.onr.org.uk/2019/05/strategic-framework-for-international-engagement-published/>