

WHY THE IRISH BORDER IS NO BARRIER TO A BREXIT DEAL

**Peace in Northern Ireland is very important.
The EU and the Irish Government playing politics with that peace is a disgrace.**

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- The Irish border is only mentioned once – in passing – in the Good Friday Agreement (GFA)
- The GFA does not require membership of the EU, Customs Union, Single Market [NI court ruling]
- HMRC, Irish Customs, and the EU Parliament’s expert report all saw no problem & **no hard border**
- Brexit for Northern Ireland presents almost no risk to the EU or its Single Market
- The N.I. exports over the border will account for only 0.2% of total EU imports
- The EU and the Irish Government prevented UK and Irish Customs from agreeing a simple solution

The EU Parliament’s own commissioned expert told its Exiting the EU Committee:-

“There would not need to be any necessary infrastructure and not need to be either CCTV cameras or number plate readers.” – Lars Karlsson, commissioned expert, EU Parliament Brexit Border/Customs Report, Mar 2018, former Director Of The World Customs Organization.

“Declarations would be electronic. Most transactions would be immediately approved and that would be the end of that.” - Liam Irwin, then Irish Revenue Commissioner, in evidence to the Dáil Committee, 16 May 2017

There is no quantifiable risk to the EU’s Single Market



Northern Ireland’s goods sales across the border are so small they will amount to a rounding error in the EU’s accounts, post-Brexit.

After Brexit, NI’s cross-border sales will account for just 0.23% of total imports into the EU. [Sources : Eurostat | HMRC | NISRA]

0.23% is **NOT** any kind of threat to the integrity of the EU’s Single Market.

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The EU and the Irish Government deliberately prevented a solution for three years

Irish Deputy, Committee of the Dáil: *“Could Mr Cody clarify whether there is a legal impediment to negotiations between us [and the UK] so we can have discussions?”* Mr Niall Cody (then head of Irish Customs): **“Yes.”**

Sir Jon Thompson, Head of HMRC, evidence to Exiting the European Union Committee, 29 Nov 2017 : *“There are no formal conversations with either the French or the Irish. **We cannot talk to Customs or taxation management organisations in either of those countries.**”*

EU-appointed customs expert, Lars Karlsson, at UK Parliament Committee: *“The proposal you’ve put here hasn’t actually been tested at any location anywhere in the world.”* Answer: **“No that’s not correct. It actually has.”**

Peace in Northern Ireland is vital. Playing politics with that peace to punish the UK is a disgrace.