

BRIEFING NOTE

The Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate

Scope and background

1 This note has been prepared following our review of information and data provided to us by the Department for International Trade (DIT) to support the [International Trade Committee's inquiry on UK Trade Remedies Policy](#), which opened on 30 July 2020. The information and data in this briefing note was current as at 14 October 2020.

2 This briefing provides details of DIT's progress to date in establishing a trade remedies function. DIT began appointing staff to establish the UK's trade remedies system from October 2018 and the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) was created in March 2019. TRID will operate within DIT until the necessary legislation is in place for the formation of the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA), a new UK-wide body for investigating claims of harmful and unfair trading practices.

3 The briefing provides a short overview of how trade remedies can protect industries from unfair trading practices. It then covers:

- the arrangements for the formation of the proposed TRA;
- government's progress to date in establishing a trade remedies function, including determining how the TRA will operate, progress with the transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy Trade Remedy Measures (TRMs), and progress with the transition review of the steel safeguard measure;
- expenditure to date on the trade remedies function; and
- the capacity and capabilities of the function.

4 We reviewed information and data provided to us by DIT and publicly available information on the government website and the online Trade Remedies Service. We have not carried out a full audit of the information contained in this note. Nor is the note an evaluation of DIT's performance in establishing a trade remedies function. Further information is set out at Appendix One.

5 The key points are:

- The TRA will be established subject to the Trade Bill 2019-21 completing all its Parliamentary stages.
- TRID within DIT has established its processes for conducting investigations. DIT has identified which existing EU anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard measures should be maintained, pending review, to protect UK producers. TRID has begun reviews of seven anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures, and one safeguard measure. It plans to review a further 36 measures over the next three years, before they are due to expire.
- In 2019-20, TRID spent £9.4 million against a budget of £11.2 million.¹ Expenditure since it was established has included £5.5 million on recruitment, training and IT contracts.
- As at September 2020, TRID had 96 staff in post against a full complement of 144. The turnover rate (rate of leavers) in the period April 2019 to March 2020 was 24.2%. The Directorate has identified some of the reasons why staff have left and has taken action to address this, including further investment in learning and development.

Overview of trade remedies

6 Trade remedies (also referred to as trade defence) describes the use of policy measures to restrict imports where a country believes those imports are unfairly damaging its own producers. Countries may apply Trade Remedy Measures (TRMs) which usually take the form of a temporary tariff on the relevant import, proportionate to the level of harm caused. This role was performed by the EU while the UK was a member of the EU Single Market.

Figure 1 shows how trade remedies can be used to protect industries.

Figure 1

Example of how trade remedies can be used to protect industries

Tariffs can be used to protect steel producers from the dumping of large quantities of foreign exports.

The Trade Remedies Authority's (TRA's) role will be to defend UK industries by identifying unfair trading practices such as imports that are being subsidised by foreign governments, and unforeseen surges in imports. The TRA will protect UK producers by determining whether unfair practices are occurring and whether there is injury as a result. It will then assess whether a trade remedy is in the UK's economic interest.

For example, the steel sector suffers from a global surplus that has driven down steel prices. Under World Trade Organization rules, countries can apply trade remedy measures to protect their national industries, companies and jobs against unfair practices in the international steel trade, such as the dumping of large quantities of foreign exports. Since 2011, the European Commission has applied a range of remedy measures, such as import duties, to ensure fair conditions for EU steel producers. After leaving the EU, the UK will continue to apply the trade remedies that it assesses are required to protect UK producers and related industries. For example, the UK has begun a review of the steel safeguard measure currently being applied by the EU to determine what changes are needed to protect UK producers.

Source: National Audit Office

¹ The expenditure reported here reflects TRID's most significant costs in 2019-20. In addition, there are some small corporate costs incurred by DIT that cannot be separately identified as relating to TRID. We have audited expenditure at the departmental level but not the specific costs incurred by TRID.

7 On 31 January 2020 the UK left the EU, no longer participating in the EU's decision making, and entering a transition period. During this period, existing rules on trade between the UK and EU continue to apply. The transition period is due to end on 31 December 2020. From that point onwards, the UK will conduct its own independent trade remedies policy and will need a new trade remedies function to implement its policy. This trade remedies function will defend UK industries from unfair trading practices and unforeseen surges in imports and will help create a level playing field internationally for UK industries.

8 There are three trade policy tools covered within UK legislation for countering imports which cause or threaten injury to domestic industries.² These tools are:

- **Anti-dumping remedies:** To address imported goods being sold within the UK at prices which are below the normal value in the country they are being exported from.
- **Countervailing remedies:** To address imported goods which are being subsidised by foreign governments.
- **Safeguard remedies:** To protect domestic industries against an unforeseen surge of imports.

The proposed Trade Remedies Authority

9 The TRA will be established subject to the Trade Bill 2019-21 completing all its Parliamentary stages. The Trade Bill was reintroduced into Parliament on 19 March 2020. Once established, the TRA will be a new UK-wide body which will investigate possible cases of dumped and subsidised imports and unforeseen surges in imports in order to determine whether a new trade remedy measure is needed to protect UK industries. The TRA will be part of the UK's new trade policy infrastructure which will also include developing capability to seek country-to-country trade disputes resolution.

10 TRID is the precursor to the TRA. TRID was created in March 2019 within DIT to establish the UK's trade remedy system until the necessary legislation is in place to establish the TRA.

11 The TRA Board will consist of a Chair appointed by the Secretary of State, other non-executive members appointed by the Secretary of State, a Chief Executive appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Secretary of State, and other executive members appointed by the Chair. The total number of members must not exceed nine. The intention is that the Board will be in place in advance of the formal establishment of the TRA. In the intervening period it will function as a shadow Board.

2 Primary legislation: The Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act 2018. Secondary legislation: The Trade Remedies (Dumping and Subsidisation) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019; The Trade Remedies (Increase in imports causing serious injury to UK producers) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

12 Chair Designate Sir David Wright and Chief Executive Designate Claire Bassett were appointed in October 2018. They resigned from their posts in March 2019 and April 2020 respectively. Simon Walker was appointed as the new Chair Designate in February 2020. DIT has informed us that the recruitment of the new Chief Executive is underway and that it hopes to make an announcement shortly. Recruitment for the remaining non-executive posts is progressing. DIT informed us that the shortlisting panel took place on 8 September 2020 and interviews were due to take place in early October. DIT has stated that it intends to include an appropriate range of backgrounds and experience on the TRA Board, and to appoint Board members on merit to ensure that the Board has the right blend of skills and expertise, rather than affiliations with any specific interest group.

13 The Trade Bill sets out governance arrangements for the TRA. These arrangements will follow Cabinet Office reporting guidelines for non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).³ A framework agreement between the TRA and DIT will set out all governance, reporting and funding arrangements. Until the new body is formally established, TRID remains part of DIT with its governance following standard departmental reporting lines via the Trade Policy Group to the Permanent Secretary. The structure of the TRA's governance processes, including terms of references for committees reporting to the Board and risk management processes, are currently provisional and will be determined once the TRA has been established.

Progress with trade remedies activities

14 Since it was established, TRID has begun to prepare for the end of the EU exit transition period. Specifically:

- **It has developed and published details of how it will carry out investigations into whether remedies are needed to protect the UK from unfair trading practices** (paragraph 16 below). It has set out how UK producers who believe that dumped or subsidised imports or a sudden increase of imports is affecting their industry can apply to TRID for a trade remedies investigation. TRID began accepting new applications for dumping and subsidy cases where they are in parallel with ongoing investigations being conducted by the European Commission. However, as at 14 October 2020 it had not begun investigations in response to any such applications. From January 2021 it will accept new applications for all other investigations.
- **DIT has identified which existing EU measures should be transitioned at the end of the EU transition period.** It identified 63 measures which it concluded could be terminated and there are 43 existing measures which it concluded should be maintained, pending review (paragraphs 17 to 20).
- **TRID has started five transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy TRMs** (paragraphs 21 to 23).
- **DIT has identified which steel safeguard measures currently being applied by the EU relate to UK products.** TRID has started a transition review of these steel safeguard measures (paragraphs 24 and 25).

³ A NDPB is a body which has a role in the processes of national government but is not a government department or part of one, and which accordingly operates to a greater or lesser extent at arm's length from ministers.

15 **Figure 2** on pages 6 and 7 sets out a timeline for the establishment of TRID and activities to date.

Establishing how the Trade Remedies Authority will operate

16 TRID has set out details of how it (and subsequently the TRA) will conduct investigations in order to determine what trade remedies are needed to protect UK industries from unfair trading practices. It has set out guidance that covers:⁴

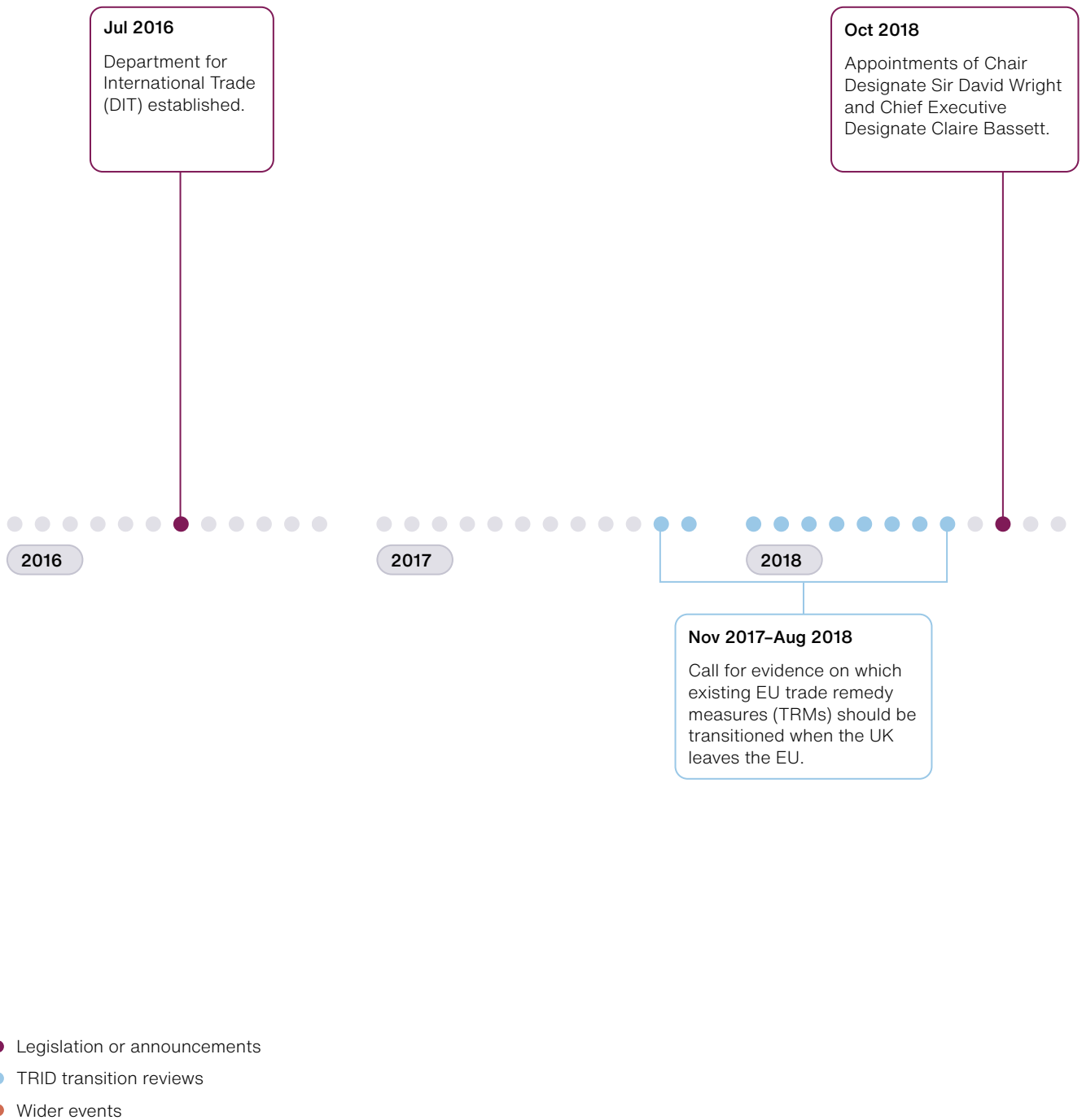
- **The types of investigations it will carry out:** Dumping investigations to assess whether dumping is causing material injury to a domestic industry; subsidy investigations to assess whether subsidising is causing material injury to a domestic industry; and safeguard investigations to assess whether an unforeseen surge of imports is causing or threatening serious injury to UK producers.
- **How an investigation may be initiated:** The requirements for initiating an investigation are laid out in UK legislation, including who to notify and what information initiation notices should include. Investigations may be initiated when a UK industry applies to TRID to do so, or by the Secretary of State.
- **How interested parties and contributors can be involved in investigations:** For example, by requesting or contributing to hearings or by submitting information. TRID has set out how it will use questionnaires to request information from interested parties and contributors.
- **Periods of investigation:** TRID has published guidance on the time period for which it will analyse industry data to inform the investigation. This will be around 12 months for dumping and subsidy investigations. There is no set time period for a safeguard investigation.
- **How it will use evidence:** TRID has published details of the analytical methodologies it will use including data sampling and verification processes, how it will handle confidential data and how it will use hearings as part of its investigations process.
- **Taking a decision:** Once it has concluded its investigations, TRID will publish a Statement of Essential Facts setting out the detailed reasoning for how it has come to a decision on whether trade remedy measures are needed. Interested parties will have the opportunity to provide comments and submissions on this statement. After considering these comments and submissions, it will then publish a final determination setting out its final recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether trade remedy measures, such as temporary tariffs on the relevant import, are needed. The Secretary of State may reject the recommendation if satisfied that it is not in the public interest. TRID has set out details of what an individual or business can do if they disagree with the decision taken.

⁴ UK Government, Guidance, The UK trade remedies investigations process, www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-trade-remedies-investigations-process

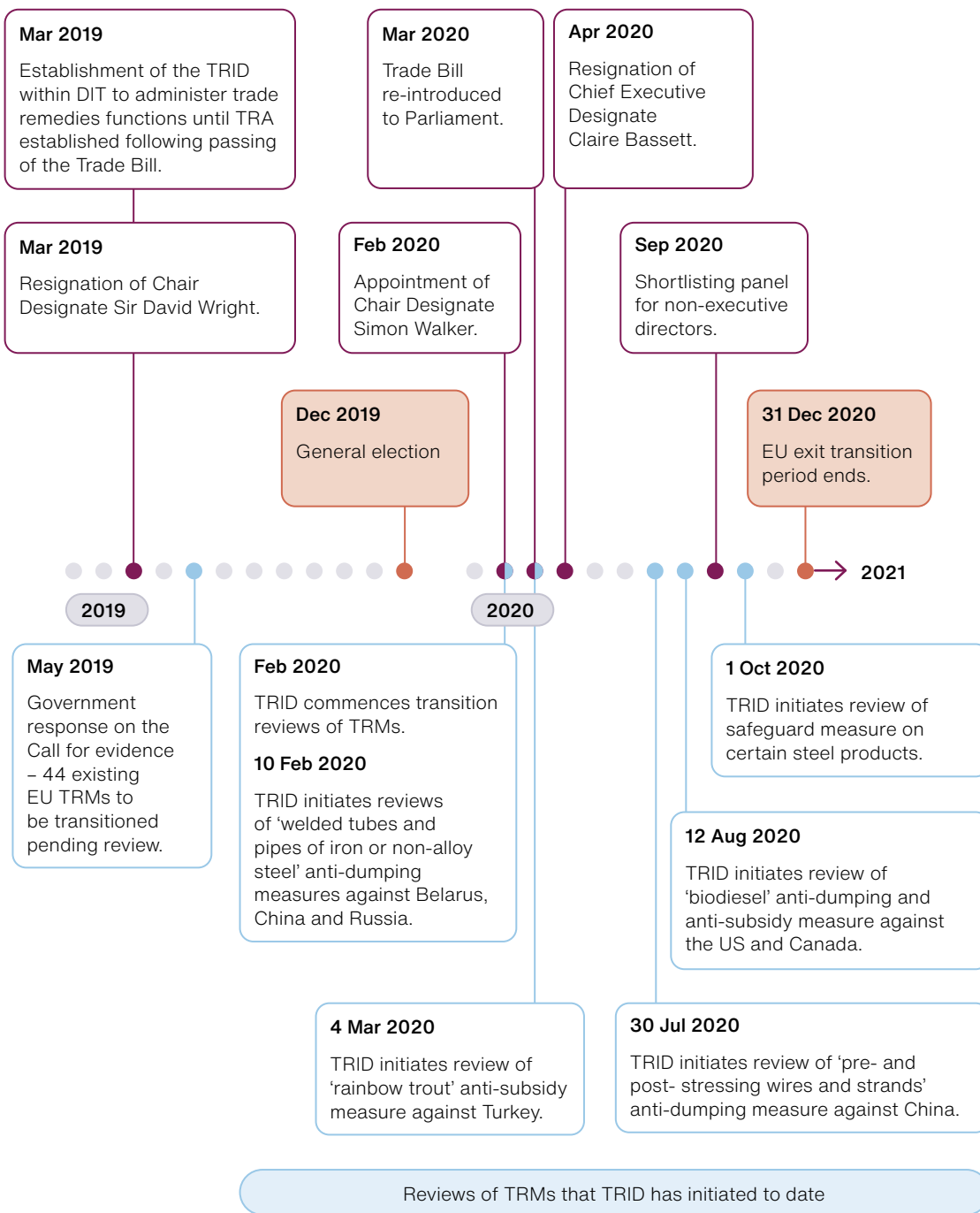
Figure 2

Timeline setting out the establishment of the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) and its activities

TRID was established in March 2019 to establish the UK's trade remedy system until the necessary legislation is in place to establish the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA)



Source: National Audit Office



Progress with the review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy Trade Remedy Measures

17 In November 2017, government announced a Call for Evidence to help it identify which UK businesses produce, in the UK, goods currently subject to EU anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures, and which measures the UK government should maintain. Government's aim was to provide certainty to UK manufacturing industries and avoid exposing them to material injury from known unfair trade practices.

18 On the basis of the response it received from the Call for Evidence, DIT applied three criteria to make an initial determination on whether a Trade Remedy Measure (TRM) should be maintained or terminated. These criteria were:⁵

- DIT had received an application to maintain measures from UK businesses which produce, in the UK, products subject to trade remedies;
- the application is supported by UK businesses which produce a sufficient proportion of those products;⁶ and
- the UK market share of UK-based producers of those products is above 1%.

19 Government published its final response to the Call for Evidence in May 2019. DIT identified 63 existing EU measures which did not meet its criteria. It will not transition these measures into UK TRMs after the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. There are 43 existing anti-subsidy or anti-dumping EU measures which met the criteria.⁷ These measures will be maintained pending a 'transition review' by TRID or the TRA.

20 Transition reviews will determine if existing EU measures should be maintained, adjusted or discontinued as a UK measure, by considering:

- whether the continuing application of an anti-dumping or countervailing duty is necessary or sufficient to offset the dumping or the importation of the relevant subsidised goods into the UK; and
- whether there would be injury to the relevant UK industry (essentially all or a major proportion of the producers in the UK of the same or similar goods) if an anti-dumping or a countervailing duty were no longer to apply to those goods.

5 Department for International Trade, Consultation outcome, *Final findings for the call for evidence into UK interest in existing EU trade remedy measures*, May 2019.

6 This mirrors tests applied by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Anti-Dumping Agreement Article 5.4 and by the WTO Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement Article 11.4 which state that "no investigation shall be initiated when domestic producers expressly supporting the application account for less than 25 per cent of total production of the like product produced by the domestic industry"

7 In May 2019, the Department for International Trade (DIT) reported that 44 existing EU measures met its criteria for maintaining measures pending review. However, the EU has subsequently changed some of the original measures (for example, introducing new measures, mergers or discontinuations) and, as a result, TRID currently plans to review 43 measures.

21 The Secretary of State has issued guidance to TRID on the order in which the transition reviews should be undertaken. TRID is instructed to initiate transition reviews in the order that the measures are due to expire, with those due to expire first reviewed first. This is because, if a review is not initiated before the TRM's expiry date (usually the same date as the existing EU measure), the TRM will expire (Figure 3 overleaf). TRID expects a transition review to take 12–15 months from initiation to preliminary determination depending, in part, on the flexibility TRID gives the parties to provide information.

22 TRID commenced transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy TRMs in February 2020. As at 14 October 2020 it had initiated 5 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy reviews covering 7 TRMs. These are:

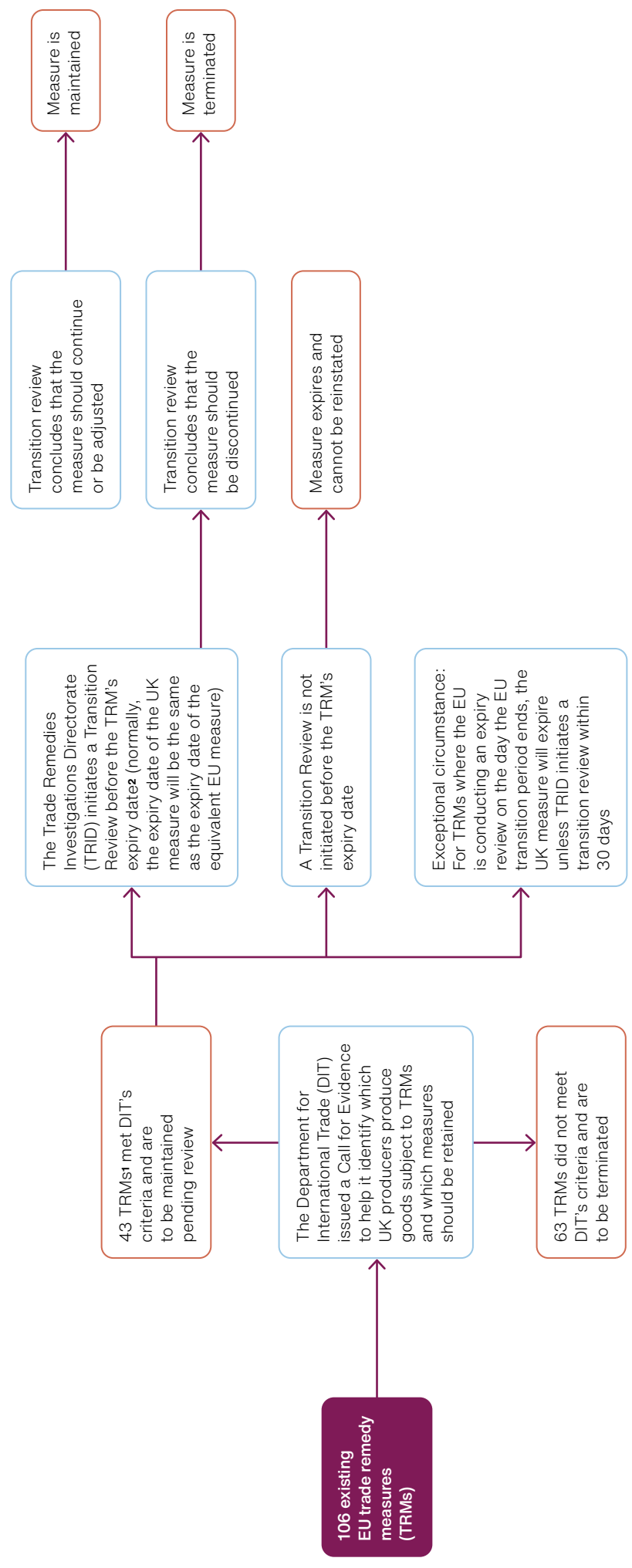
- Reviews of 'welded tubes and pipes of iron or non-alloy steel' anti-dumping measures against Belarus, China and Russia. These reviews, initiated in February 2020, cover three TRMs.
- Review of 'rainbow trout' anti-subsidy measure against Turkey, initiated in March 2020.
- Review of 'pre- and post-stressing wires and strands' anti-dumping measure against China, initiated in July 2020.
- Review of 'biodiesel' anti-dumping measures against the US and Canada, initiated in August 2020.
- Reviews of 'biodiesel' anti-subsidy measures against US and Canada initiated in August 2020.

23 TRID currently plans to initiate and carry out transition reviews of a further 36 measures over the next three years. It has planned a programme of reviews by which it aims to initiate a review of each measure, before the measure's expiry date. Full details of the reviews it plans to carry out in 2021 and 2022 are market sensitive and subject to change. Figure 4 on page 11 sets out the years in which the measures are due to expire. In planning its timetable of reviews, and the number of investigators it will need to carry it out, TRID has also considered how many new cases it will need to progress in parallel, using the EU's caseload as a guide.

Figure 3

The Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) is carrying out transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy Trade Remedy Measures (TRMs)

A TRM will expire if a transition review is not initiated before its expiry date



- EU measures
- Action
- Outcome

Notes

- 1 In May 2019, the Department for International Trade (DIT) reported that 44 measures met its criteria for maintaining measures pending review. However, the EU has subsequently made changes to the original measures (for example, introducing, merging or discontinuing measures) and, as a result, TRID currently plans to review 43 measures.
- 2 If a review is initiated before the measure's expiry date, the measure remains in place until the review has been concluded, even if this is after the original expiry date.

Figure 4

Progress with transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy Trade Remedy Measures (TRMs)

As at 14 October 2020, the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) had initiated transition reviews covering seven anti-dumping and anti-subsidy TRMs

Number of TRMs already under review	7
Number of further TRMs that TRID currently plans to review	36
Due to expire in 2020	6
Due to expire in 2021	3
Due to expire in 2022	12
Due to expire in 2023	5
Due to expire in 2024	9
Due to expire in 2025	1
Total	43

Source: National Audit Office analysis of information on transition reviews published by the Department for International Trade

Progress with the transition of the steel safeguard measure

24 The EU applies a steel safeguard measure to certain steel products from all countries. DIT has identified 19 product categories covered by the existing EU steel safeguard measure where there is UK production. In order to provide continuity for UK producers, the measure will be transitioned for these 19 product categories at the end of the transition period. The measure takes the form of a tariff rate quota (TRQ). This is a type of duty in which goods up to a specified quantity are subject to a lower import duty than goods outside the quota for a specified period, and once the quota has been exceeded, a higher import duty will be applied. The UK-specific TRQs were recalculated for each of the 19 product categories using the same method used by the European Commission.

25 In October 2020, TRID initiated a transition review of this steel safeguard measure to determine what changes to the measure, or how it is applied, are needed to protect UK producers.

Expenditure

26 In 2019-20, TRID spent £9.40 million on staff, IT and other running costs against a budget of £11.18 million (Figure 5 overleaf).⁸ Most of this underspend relates to an underspend on staff and other running costs. In 2018-19 it spent £7.72 million against a budget of £8.90 million.

⁸ The expenditure reported here reflects TRID's most significant costs in 2019-20 and 2018-19. In addition, there are some small corporate costs incurred by DIT that cannot be separately identified as relating to TRID. We have audited expenditure at the departmental level but have not audited the specific costs incurred by TRID.

Figure 5

Expenditure by the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID)
(2018-19 and 2019-20)

TRID spent £9.40 million in 2019-20 against a budget of £11.18 million¹

Expenditure	2018-19 expenditure	2018-19 budget	2019-20 expenditure	2019-20 budget
	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
Staff and other running costs				
Staff	2.23		7.06	
Learning and development	1.44		0.28	
Recruitment	0.80		0.01	
Consultancy	1.48		0	
Other	0.04		0.22	
Total staff and other running costs	5.99		7.57	9.6
IT	1.36		1.39 ⁴	1.0
Estates	0.37 ²		0.54 ^{3,5}	0.58
Grand total	7.72	8.9	9.40	11.18

Notes

- 1 The expenditure reported here reflects TRID's most significant costs. In addition, there are some small corporate costs incurred by the Department for International Trade (DIT) that cannot be separately identified as relating to TRID. We have audited expenditure at the departmental level but have not audited the specific costs incurred by TRID.
- 2 This includes charges for rent, utilities, business rates and building maintenance for the part of the financial year that TRID incurred estates costs.
- 3 This includes rent, utilities, business rates and building maintenance for the full financial year.
- 4 Spend above the originally anticipated £1 million IT budget was absorbed within DIT's wider IT budget.
- 5 The estates costs include rent for North Gate House, TRID's Reading office. The rent for North Gate House is an annual charge of £486,218; a total of £1,458,654 over the period 20 August 2018 to 20 August 2021.
- 6 Data do not always sum precisely due to rounding

Source: Department for International Trade

27 DIT has awarded four contracts of individual value greater than £200,000 to support its trade remedies function (Figure 6). The total value of these contracts is £5.5 million.

Figure 6

Contracts awarded by the Department for International Trade (DIT) to support its trade remedies function (2018-19 to 2019-20)

DIT has awarded four contracts of individual value greater than £200,000

Contract	What it aimed to deliver	Contract value (£)	Contract period	Supplier
Trade Remedies Learning and Development	Design and delivery of trade remedies technical training for the staff of the new body, including large numbers of new recruits.	2,640,000	18 June 2018 to 28 February 2019	Deloitte LLP
Trade Remedies BETA contract	Development and delivery of the Trade Remedies Service IT system. DIT informed us that this fully-digital trade remedies case management system was built to Government Digital Service standards and allows investigators, applicants and interested parties to submit and handle data securely and efficiently.	1,147,750	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019	Engine Partners LLP (trading as Transform)
Trade Remedies Digital Product Live Maintenance and Development	Undertake further development on the trade remedies digital platform (developing unmet user needs, improving data tracking and workflow, integrating with DIT and other departments). The Trade Remedies Service was launched in February 2020 and is fully operational. The original maintenance and development contract (value £1,000,000, due to conclude on 31 March 2020) was extended to 28 June 2020 at an additional cost of £200,000. The service is now run by an in-house team.	1,200,000	1 April 2019 to 28 June 2020	Engine Transformation
Trade Remedies Authority recruitment	Bulk recruitment of staff for the new body. A recruitment company was engaged due to large numbers of applications.	533,436	7 May 2018 to 7 December 2018	TMP Worldwide
Total		5,521,186		

Source: Department for International Trade

Capacity and capability

28 TRID was originally established for an initial launch in March 2019 in expectation of an earlier EU exit date. DIT began appointing staff to establish the UK's trade remedies system from October 2018. By March 2019, the number of staff recruited to establish the trade remedies function had increased to around 100 (headcount) and then fluctuated at around this level (Figure 7 overleaf). As at March 2020 TRID had 99 staff in post, and as at September 2020 there were 96 staff in post. For the period to March 2020, TRID was working to a full staff complement of 129. From April 2020, subject to the Department's Spending Review settlement, TRID will be working towards a full staff complement of 144. TRID will need to increase staff numbers in all disciplines to reach its full complement (Figure 8 on page 15).

Figure 7
Trend in total Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) staff numbers (headcount) between September 2018 and March 2020

As at March 2020, TRID had 99 staff in post against a full complement of 129



● Series 1

Note

1 Although TRID was formally created in March 2019, DIT began appointing staff to establish the UK's trade remedies system from October 2018.

Source: National Audit Office analysis of Department for International Trade data

Figure 8

Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) staff number by discipline

TRID will need to increase staff numbers in all disciplines to reach its full complement

Discipline	Number of staff in post at 1 September 2020	Planned numbers for 2020-21
Investigators	44	62
Corporate services	25	35
Analysts	12	21
Legal	9	13
Operational policy	6	13
Total	96	144

Source: Department for International Trade

29 In the period April 2019 to March 2020, 23 staff joined TRID and 24 staff left the directorate (Figure 9 overleaf). The turnover rate (rate of leavers) over the 12-month period was 24.2%.⁹ The turnover rate for DIT as a whole as at March 2020 is 14.2%.

30 TRID has used exit interviews, staff surveys and discussions with staff to investigate the reasons for its high staff turnover. Factors they identified included:

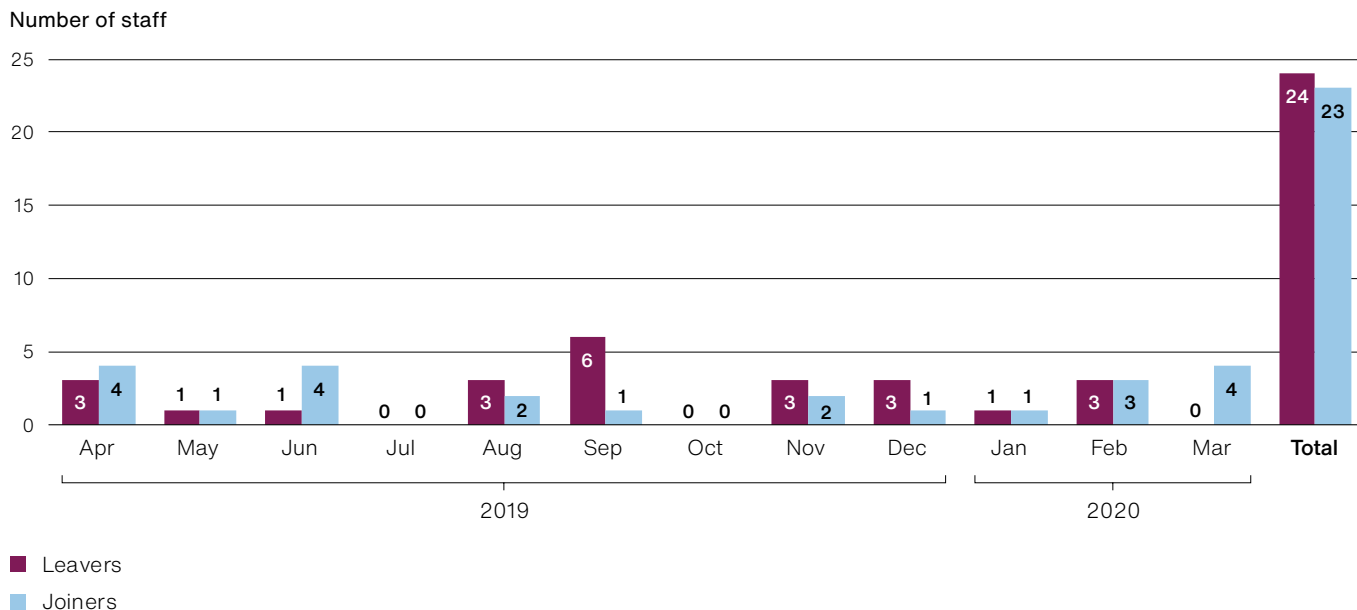
- Some recruits to the newly formed directorate chose to leave because they felt that their expertise was not being used or that they did not have the skills they needed to perform their roles.
- Delays in the EU-exit date during 2019 led to uncertainty at that time about the TRA's future role. It also meant that TRID began operations later than expected and some specialist investigators were performing roles other than the ones they were recruited for. TRID considers that some turnover was inevitable as a result of delay in both the EU exit date and the start of its operations but informed us that this is no longer an issue now that transition reviews are underway.
- There were competing opportunities in DIT or the broader civil service. Once recruits had completed their probation, they were free to apply for these opportunities. TRID also loaned staff to DIT or the wider civil service and some chose to remain in their new roles. Around 60% of TRID leavers remained in the civil service.
- The Reading location results in the TRA competing with employment opportunities in London.

⁹ Rolling 12-month turnover rate calculated by dividing the number of staff who left TRID between April 2019 and March 2020 by the average number of staff employed over the 12-month period.

Figure 9

Number of staff joining and leaving the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) by month between April 2019 and March 2020

In the period April 2019 to March 2020, 23 staff joined, and 24 staff left TRID



Note
 1 TRID has informed us that attrition since April 2020 has been running at lower levels than in the period April 2019 to March 2020. The period prior to April 2019 was characterised by higher levels of recruitment than in the subsequent period.

Source: National Audit Office analysis of Department for International Trade data

31 TRID has developed a detailed case planning model that sets out the timescales and resource requirements for each case across the next three years. It anticipates carrying out around four new cases a year in addition to its programme of transition reviews. It is taking action to recruit new staff to meet its resource requirements. For example, TRID informed us that a recent recruitment round for trainee investigators attracted over 600 applications, with 50 candidates being interviewed. It expects to be able to appoint around 12 and maintain a waiting list.

32 To ensure that its staff have the skills they need, and to address issues around turnover, TRID has developed a Learning and Development Plan covering corporate core skills, leadership and management, and professional and specialist learning and development. TRID told us that there was no existing UK competence in trade remedies investigations, so it has invested heavily in technical training for its staff. TRID informed us that TRID investigators and analysts currently in post have completed training, are already undertaking transition reviews and are ready to begin investigations. TRID has taken some specific actions to ensure that staff have the skills they need to carry out effective investigations. For example:

- All new investigators, analysts and lawyers have received technical specialist trade remedies training designed to provide a strong base knowledge on trade remedies theory and its application. It has also designed a two-year Investigator Development Programme to enable staff to progress to a more senior investigator role.
- Specialist staff have built their expertise by attending international conferences and engaging with professional bodies.
- Training to develop specialist accounting, audit and investigatory skills, including opportunities to gain professional qualifications. TRID has also recruited four qualified accountants to help build verification skills, and has a requirement for a further four.
- Learning from other countries, for example training from the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission.
- Improved communications, including one-to-one conversations with all staff in advance of transition to TRA to address any concerns they may have, pulse surveys and visits from ministers.

Appendix One: Scope and evidence base

33 This note has been prepared following our review of information and data provided to us by the Department for International Trade (DIT) to support the [International Trade Committee's inquiry on UK Trade Remedies Policy](#), which opened on 30 July 2020. The information and data in this briefing note was current as at 14 October 2020.

34 The briefing provides details of DIT's progress to date in establishing a trade remedies function. We examined:

- the arrangements for the formation of the proposed Trade Remedies Authority (TRA);
- government's progress to date in establishing a trade remedies function, including: determining how the TRA will operate; progress with the transition reviews of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy Trade Remedy Measures; and progress with the transition review of the steel safeguard measure;
- expenditure to date on the trade remedies function; and
- the capacity and capabilities of the function.

35 Our review of the evidence included:

- review of DIT documentation including its annual report and accounts (2019-20), Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate's (TRID's) expenditure data for 2018-19 and 2019-20, details of contracts awarded by TRID in 2018-19 and 2019-20, and TRID's transition review timetable for 2021 to 2023;
- review of TRID's guidance and information on how it will conduct investigations and transition reviews, and information on active cases on the Trade Remedies Service public file;
- analysis of TRID staff headcount data for 2018-19; and
- interviews with officials in DIT and TRID, including operational policy, human resources and finance staff.

Where to find out more

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