



Media Coverage Highlights:
June 15 - 26 2016



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- URL: <http://www.lawyer-monthly.com/2016/06/campaign-for-clarity-vote-leave-remain-camps-answer-key-sme-business-questions/>



Campaign for Clarity: Vote Leave & Remain Camps Answer Key SME Business Questions

15 Jun, 2016

As part of its commitment to the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) business community, the UK200Group has launched its Campaign for Clarity ahead of the EU Referendum on June 23rd.

With this in mind, the UK200Group asked its members and their clients to contribute their most important business questions to a document that was then submitted to Britain Stronger in Europe and Vote Leave. The answers were received between May 12th and 24th 2016 and are documented in the report.

The UK200Group, established in 1986, represents a significant group of trusted, quality-assured business advisers – chartered accountants and lawyers – who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. As such, the UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10% of all registered academies, more than 3,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

Head over to the UK200Group report for all the answers to the key business questions. The Remain camp, as the nearest to status quo, has had its answers listed first under a blue heading, and the Leave camp has its answers underneath an orange heading.

The UK200Group is impartial in the EU referendum debate and seeks only to provide clarity to its members on issues that will affect them. As such, the answers are provided verbatim from Britain Stronger in Europe and Vote Leave and are combined for the first time in this report.

The report includes questions from real SME owners in the following areas: Agriculture, Business Growth, Charity and Education, Employment, Healthcare, High Net Worth, Individuals, International, Legal, Legislation and Regulation, Quality, and Sports.

(Source: UK200Group)

- Date: 16 June 2016
- CCH Daily provides independent news, analysis and insight on the accounting profession.
- Reach: 4,384
- URL: <https://www.cchdaily.co.uk/eu-campaign-groups-cast-uncertainty-over-access-ecj>

EU campaign groups cast uncertainty over access to ECJ

Both campaign groups involved in the debate over the UK's position in Europe have cast doubt over access to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) after next week's referendum

A lengthy report produced by the UK200Group – which represents small and mid-tier firms – revealed that neither the Remain nor the Leave campaigns were certain of a cut-off point for cases going to the court, nor of what would become of cases already before it.

The Remain camp simply said the UK's relationship with the ECJ 'would depend on the kind of future relationship Britain would have with the EU'.

For its part, Leave said it 'would be for the UK and the EU to determine the cut off'.

It added: 'After we vote leave, we would expect parliament to legislate to amend or repeal the 1972 Act which gives the European Court control over our law.'

'However, the referendum will have no legal consequences save for the certification of the result by the chief counting officer. After the UK voted to leave, it would therefore initially continue to be a member of all the EU institutions under the EU treaties with the voting rights of a full member.'

Cases before the ECJ have been known to take years to conclude, and there are currently several significant live cases that could conceivably be affected, including [UBS](#) and [Deutsche Bank](#)'s challenge to HMRC over its bonus scheme.

The case of [Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club](#) and its long-running VAT dispute with HMRC could also find itself caught up, while the Glasgow Rangers FC oldco's long-running employee benefit trust spat could also be in the crossfire, although it will be [considered by the Supreme Court in 2017](#).

16 Jun 2016

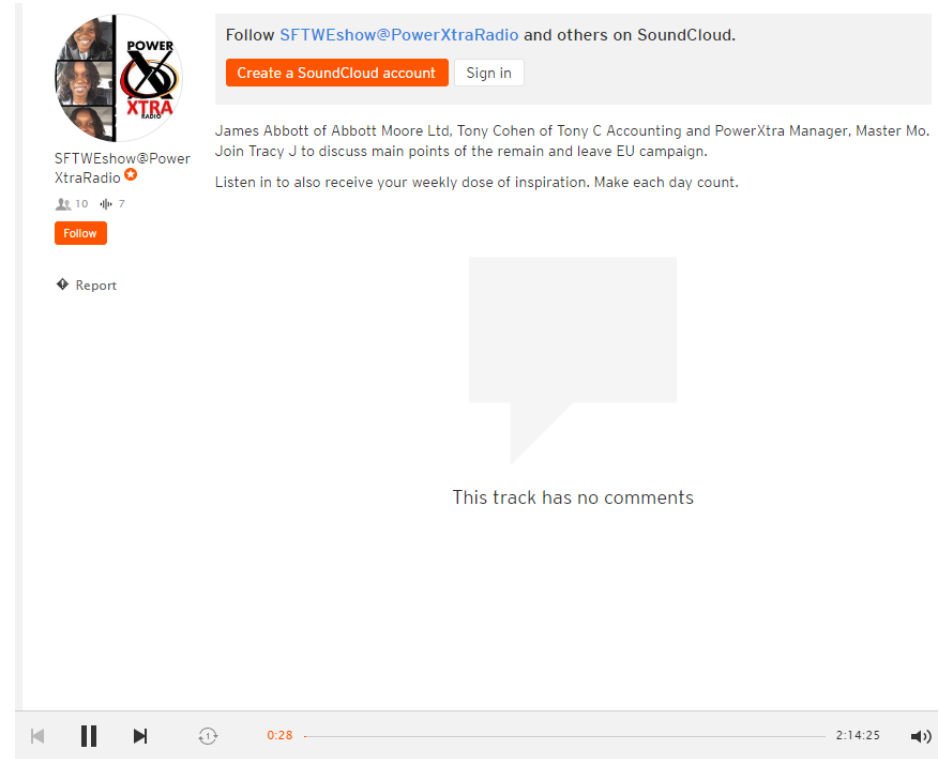
Calum Fuller

Assistant editor,
Accountancy

[View profile and articles.](#)



- Date: 17 June 2016
- Power Xtra Radio is a commercial online entertainment, music, videos, events and radio station.
- Reach: 80,000
- URL: <https://soundcloud.com/user-486149350/sftwe-show-17-june-2016>



The image shows a SoundCloud player interface. At the top, there is a banner that says "Follow SFTWeshow@PowerXtraRadio and others on SoundCloud." with buttons for "Create a SoundCloud account" and "Sign in". Below this, the profile of "SFTWeshow@PowerXtraRadio" is displayed, featuring a circular profile picture and a "Follow" button. The bio mentions James Abbott of Abbott Moore Ltd, Tony Cohen of Tony C Accounting and PowerXtra Manager, Master Mo. Join Tracy J to discuss main points of the remain and leave EU campaign. Listen in to also receive your weekly dose of inspiration. Make each day count. Below the bio, there is a "Report" button. The main content area shows a large grey speech bubble icon and the text "This track has no comments". At the bottom, there is a playback bar with a play/pause button, a progress bar showing 0:28 / 2:14:25, and a volume icon.

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- Date: 19 June 2016
- This appeared in the print edition of the Mail on Sunday
- Reach: 1,351,128

Small Business All the news and analysis for ambitious company owners

The truth on Brexit – both sides ‘really don’t know’

THE BIG EU BUSINESS BATTLE

Remain and Leave camps address 30 key questions

by Vicki Owen
Small Business Journalist of the Year

A 'CAMPAIGN for Clarity' on behalf of small and medium-sized enterprises has revealed Britain's strongest in Europe and Vote Leave's responses to 30 key questions about the EU referendum – and some are far from clear.

Questions included: 'What would happen with farming subsidies?', 'How will SMEs' ability to find and retain the right people be affected?', and 'Will workers be at risk of no longer being protected by the Working Time Directive?'

The report, called EU Referendum – It's Your Business!, was compiled by the UK200Group, an association of lawyers and accountants with 150,000 business clients between them. The questions were based on contributions from members and their clients. The group is neutral in the debate.

At the launch of the report, UK200Group president James Abbott said a key concern for businesses was recruitment. 'One of the key battles they have is, "I can't get good people", he said.

Abbott, a chartered tax adviser and chartered accountant who launched Abbott Moore in 2012, said of the responses: 'One of the starkest differences in views was on what will happen to sterling.

'The Remain campaign think we could have a loss in value of up to 20 per cent. The Leave campaign, how-



'REASONS TO BE FEARFUL' Daniel Chamier with the Countess of Wessex

Handbags at dawn! Thatcher bagmaker rages: Grow up and get on with government

THE boss of a firm that sold handbags to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said he 'cannot think of a business issue that we face to which the answer is leaving the EU'.

Former banker Daniel Chamier, who took over the ailing Carlisle-based shooting and fishing bag-maker John Chapman Bags – a brand loved by actor Pierce Brosnan and the Countess of Wessex – told The Mail on Sunday: 'I am extremely concerned that our Government is going to spend the next five or ten years sorting out the mess that a Brexit would cause when we have far more pressing problems to deal with.'

Chamier, who went to school with former London Mayor and prominent Vote Leave campaigner Boris Johnson, said: 'I have a lot of respect for Boris Johnson as an intellect, but I have not heard a single compelling argument from the Leave camp. There's a lot of stuff about Remain being all about fear. We've got every reason to be fearful. It's not a joke. I am worried about not being in

the single market when we've got big export markets there. I think it would be catastrophic for a period of time. I think it would be a massive fall-out. A lot of it, frankly, is an unnecessary distraction.

He said that if the result was to remain: 'I think the main damage is likely to be within the Conservative party, but that's up to them. If we vote to stay in, they've got to grow up and get on with the business of government.'

He added: 'The big challenges we face in this country are all in our own control. I view the immigration issue as a complete red herring. The fact is that if we suddenly said, "Right, we can't have people from the EU any more," we'd have to get them from somewhere else. Because otherwise we're not going to staff our hospitals and care homes.'

'People do not come over here to get benefits. And it would seriously damage manufacturing as well. A lot of factories cannot get people in this country who have the skills and the inclination to work in factories.'



ever, do not foresee any change in the value of sterling following a vote to leave.'

One question failed to offer any clarity: 'What, in practical terms, would change about SME VAT if the UK were to leave the EU?'

Deborah Douglas, a partner at Hasker Accountants who specialises in VAT issues with a focus on property and construction, said: 'What you have is the two shortest answers,

from both camps, simply because they don't know. They don't know, we don't know and our SMEs members don't know. We can only guess something when it's only half done? There's not an awful lot of answers.'

Meanwhile, City commentator Justin Urquhart Stewart, co-founder of Seven Investment Management, said: 'The economy runs on confidence. If we don't have that then the whole thing falls apart. Our econ-

omy has been doing well because people are willing to take the risk.'

Sir Tim Farmer, founder of tyros group Kwik-Fit, told The Mail on Sunday at entrepreneur and investor network E2Exchange's annual reception last week: 'There's a lot of much mud-slinging it's totally confusing. It's unfortunate that both sides have been throwing insults.'

To read the full report, visit uk200group.co.uk.

'We're counting on two numbers'

A LUKEWARM result in the referendum would be disastrous for small and medium-sized firms, according to Jeremy Cook, chief economist for the British company World First.

He said: 'The only two numbers that matter are 55 and 40 – 55 is the minimum majority needed for a decisive outcome and 40 is the percentage turnout required for that

majority to be bullet-proof.

'If there is a 55 per cent majority to remain on a 40 per cent turnout, we can expect a sharp rebound for the British economy, exchange rates and for the small and medium-sized businesses that we work with as a UK and global currency broker.'

And his advice to firms was to 'hope for the best and plan for the worst'.

He predicted that a strong vote to stay would encourage firms to increase their capital spending and expand, and that sterling would rebound by 2-3 per cent.

'JOHN ROLAND, an online PR platform for small businesses, has launched a 90-second online tool to help people work out which way to vote. Visit makeitclear.uk.



ARGUMENT! Stephen Kelly elected use of results

MANUFACTURERS are divided over whether the UK should leave the EU, according to a survey of 900 firms by Leeds-based recruiter Manufacturing Futures.

Of the 900 business leaders asked, 53 per cent said they thought the UK should go alone, compared with 45 per cent voting to stay. But 14 per cent said they could change their mind.

Chris Griffin of Manufacturing Futures said: 'This is a key sector in the EU and rely on being able to export freely. The UK is still the 11th largest manufacturing nation and, though many firms have concerns, we are surprised the results of this poll are so close.'

Meanwhile, results from a survey conducted by accounting software firm Sage on Monday

revealed that 58 per cent of UK small businesses were planning to vote to remain in the EU, 27 per cent to leave and 14 per cent were undecided.

Sage chief executive Stephen Kelly said: 'People are turned off by politicians trading insults. As a result, 14 per cent of business owners are undecided. There's still a way to go for campaigners to provide a truly legitimate argument.'

Manufacturers split on decision

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- This is the website of the Mail on Sunday.
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- URL:
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The big EU business battle: The truth on Brexit is that both sides 'really don't know'

By VICKI OWEN, FINANCIAL MAIL ON SUNDAY

PUBLISHED: 23:14, 18 June 2016 | UPDATED: 18:49, 19 June 2016



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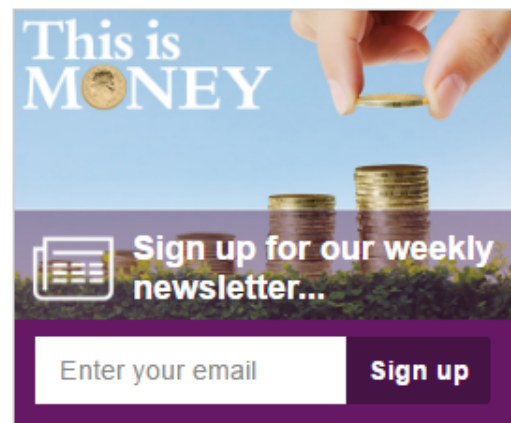
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- This is Money is a part of the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday & Metro media group, and focuses on personal finance.
- Reach: 1,251,617
- URL:
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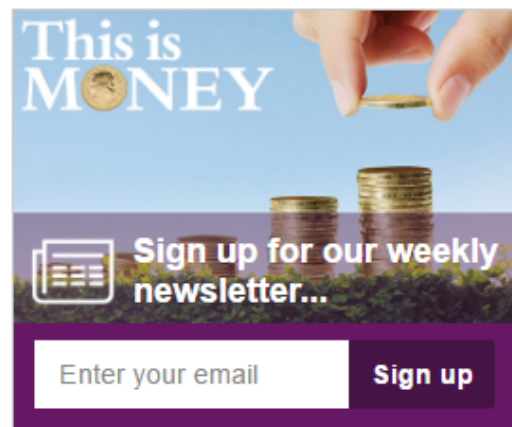
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- Date: 18 June 2016
- Mail Online is the website of the Daily Mail, and is the best-read news website in the UK.
- Reach: 44,050,354
- URL:
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/small-business/article-3648514/The-big-EU-business-battle-truth-Brexit-sides-really-don-t-know.html>

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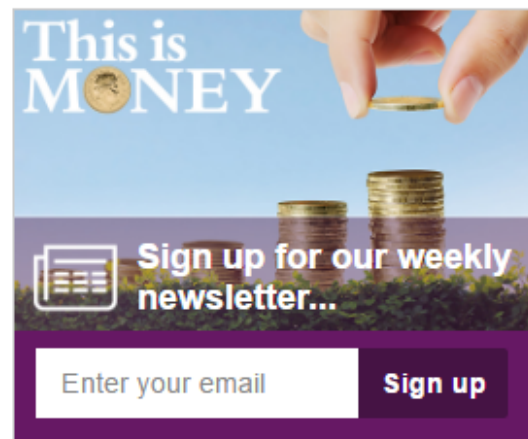
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- Date: 20 June 2016
- Contractor Calculator is the UK's leading guide for contractors from IT, telecoms, engineering, oil, gas, energy, and other sectors.
- Reach: 134, 482
- URL: <http://www.yareah.com/2016/06/21/law-business-boom-event-leave-vote/>

Brexit and contracting: UK200Group asks should we stay or should we go? Part I

With the European Union (EU) referendum only weeks away, many contractors are still unsure about how to vote. ContractorCalculator was exclusively invited to a **UK200Group** event where experts gathered to discuss the likely impact of a Brexit on UK contractors and small businesses as part of its 'Campaign for Clarity'.

"The difficulty about this referendum is all the confusion about the facts, the inconsistent results and the ambiguity, and that's why this Campaign for Clarity is so important," highlights UK200Group president and regular ContractorCalculator contributor **James Abbott**.

Abbott was joined on the UK200Group media briefing panel by experts in tax, law and finance, who addressed questions posed by UK200Group members from campaign groups **Britain Stronger in Europe** (BSIE) and **Vote Leave**. The discussion was chaired by leading British futurologist and author Dr James Bellini.

In part one of our EU referendum coverage, ContractorCalculator considers the impact a Brexit might have on contractors with regards to skills shortages and free movement of labour.

Remain: free movement of labour eases severity of talent shortfall

"With almost any businessperson you talk to, one of the complaints you will most often hear is that they can't get good people," notes Abbott. "You hear it again and again."

This has been one of the main arguments addressed to the leave campaign, that a vote to leave the EU would intensify already existing skills shortages.

Firms in sectors such as IT rely heavily on drafting in talent from Europe to help bridge the gap between supply and demand. This is largely aided by the EU's open door policy that allows free movement of labour between EU member states.

It seems a straightforward argument. Remaining in the EU would preserve the right of UK businesses to source contractors from other EU member states whereas leaving would not.

This argument gains strength in light of the severe skills shortages that many UK sectors are facing. For example, the construction sector is suffering from a slowdown due to its own talent shortfall.

Leave: Immigration reforms could benefit contractor clients

Rather than heightening the UK talent shortfall, Vote Leave argues that reforms to immigration would benefit the UK economy whilst allowing it to source contractors from further afield. Contractors are easily sourced within the EU to the detriment of contractors from other continents, who Vote Leave argues do not get a fair look-in.

Proposing the introduction of a new immigration system, Vote Leave argues that EU immigration is "immoral, expensive and out of control", adding:

"EU law demands that the UK has an open door to European countries, while simultaneously stopping highly skilled people from outside the EU coming to the UK to contribute. This has resulted in large numbers of people from across Europe coming to our country."

Skills shortage "headache" inevitable either way

However, as Bellini argues, UK industry may be little affected either way, considering the wider extent of the talent shortfall and the rate at which technological advancements are outpacing candidate supply:

"Regardless of the decision we make, we have a skills shortage anyway. We're moving into a highly digitalised economy which requires skillsets such as data analytics, which most countries in the world have a serious problem with.

"Ultimately, it's largely to do with the education system and the fact that not enough people are undertaking training that would prepare them for these jobs that we're struggling to fill. So, in or out, it might be differently framed but I think we'd still have a big headache."

Bellini's argument is supported by the findings from ManpowerGroup's 2015 Talent Shortage Survey, which show that an increasing number of firms are struggling to fill roles – 38%, up 2% from 2014.

Playing into the favour of the remain campaign is the fact that nine out of the ten countries reporting the least severe skills shortages are located in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. This suggests that attempts to source contractors from other continents outside the EU may not prove successful.

VAT charges could deter overseas contractor clients

Also playing into the favour of the remain campaign are the implications of VAT and what this could mean for contractor demand across Europe. Experts from the London School of Economics (LSE) note that every contract with clients in the EU would require a sales tax surcharge of 20% VAT. This could no longer be combined with domestic VAT payments.

"Being a member of the EU means goods and services move freely," adds Debra Dougal of Haslers chartered accountants. "If goods can't move freely, VAT has to be paid for them. If VAT has to be paid on goods and services, there's a cash flow disadvantage."

Dougal notes that the immediate impact of a Brexit with regards to the movement of services between the UK and EU wouldn't be favourable, especially within the two year negotiation period. Contractors who frequently trade overseas could be hit particularly hard. The 20% VAT may act as a deterrent, preventing some EU clients from engaging with contractors.

Is contractor flexibility impacted by EU regulations?

Unsurprisingly, each side held differing opinions on the impact of EU-enforced rules on the ability of contractors to be agile, responsive and flexible. BSIE is quick to highlight that acceptance of EU rules ensures a level playing field for contractors and businesses across Europe, adding that it is in the best interests of contractors to remain in order to help influence future policy.

"It is vital for us to ensure that a strong British voice continues to be heard in the EU's institutions to advance the interest of small businesses. The UK Government is very influential in the EU, and its positions on red tape and business regulation are informed by the views of small businesses."

Vote Leave argues that, by opting out, the UK could adopt more of a pick-and-choose approach to its rules and regulations to the ultimate benefit of its contractors and small businesses.

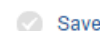
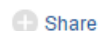
"Where rules help protect UK consumers, we expect the Government to retain those rules. On the other hand, bizarre, absurd, wasteful and unreasonable rules could be repealed by the UK Government."

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- Reach: 116,250
- The Law Society Gazette is the official journal of the Law Society.
- URL: <http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice/lawyers-primed-for-eu-vote-fallout/5055951.fullarticle>

Lawyers primed for EU vote fallout

20 June 2016 | By Michael Cross

Topics: Government & politics, Brexit



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he prospect of radical constitutional change was in the forefront of many lawyers' minds as the *Gazette* went to press, with opinion polls showing a narrow but consistent majority for 'leave' in Thursday's EU referendum.

In the event of a Brexit vote, the government is expected to open negotiations for a withdrawal under Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union. The EU's treaties would cease to apply after two years, unless there is a unanimous agreement to extend negotiations.

However, one senior figure in the Leave campaign, former lord chancellor Chris Grayling (pictured), said last week that moves to unpick EU law could begin in advance of a formal departure. These might include a European Union law (emergency provisions) bill to limit the powers of the European Court of Justice, he said.

The UK200 Group, which represents accountants and lawyers, predicted a 'boom time' in legal work as a result. 'Whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'll leave you to judge,' said executive board member Peter Duff.

Meanwhile, in a rare example of a law firm announcing allegiance to either camp, partners at London intellectual property firm EIP said that they are supporting the Remain position.



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The UK200Group 30 questions report

As Euro 2016 gets into full swing and we enter the final week of campaigning ahead of the EU referendum, the question of the UK's football leagues' continued competitiveness in the event of an exit from the trading bloc has been answered by the official Remain and Leave campaigns.

The **UK200Group** – the UK's leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms – has published a **report** detailing the top 30 EU Referendum questions asked by SMEs and the respective answers of the official Remain and Leave campaigns.

Included in the report is the following question:

Currently, footballers from across Europe can live and work in the UK without procuring a visa. If Britain were to leave the EU, would it be more difficult for foreign players to sign for our clubs, and could that affect the £3.4 billion the Premier League alone adds to the UK economy?

The Remain campaign said, "The EU benefits sports fans in Britain by eliminating barriers and making it cheaper to travel to sporting events across Europe. Sports clubs in the UK are able to recruit the best talent from across Europe with no barriers thanks to free movement rules.

"It has recently been shown that Premier League clubs could struggle to maintain certain EU players if we left the EU, a risk that was underlined by Arsene Wenger. This is likely to impact the competitiveness of UK clubs.

"The EU's Erasmus programme provides funding for projects to get young people into sport, and supports the inclusion of minorities and people with disabilities through participation in sport. Access to Erasmus could end if we left the EU.

"Britain can draw on best practice from across Europe through cooperation in EU sports bodies. EU sports bodies exist to tackle match-fixing, promote transparency and fair regulation, take action against doping and develop rules for the transfer of sports players that preserve integrity and prevent exploitation."

The Leave campaign said, "The Premier League has more foreign players than competing leagues. EU free movement rules have damaged British football. As the FA has acknowledged, the recent restrictions that have been introduced on skilled immigration from non-EU countries are the direct consequence of the EU's freedom of movement rules. After we Vote Leave, it would be easier for foreign players to sign for our clubs."

The UK200Group compiled the questions in order to address a lack of clarity about how remaining or leaving the EU would affect the small business community. The questions put to **Britain Stronger in Europe** and **Vote Leave** were all sourced from the association's members and their clients.

The UK200Group, which was established in 1986, represents a group of trusted, quality-assured business advisers – accountants and lawyers – who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. As such, the UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10% of all registered academies, more than 3,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

A video of the media briefing that launched the report can be found [here](#).



- Date: 21 June 2016
- Farming UK is a publication in the UK which specialises in agriculture.
- Reach: 10,837
- URL:
http://www.farminguk.com/News/Remain-and-Leave-campaigns-answer-three-key-farming-questions_42201.html

The UK's agricultural industry has been at the heart of the EU referendum debate because of the EU's farming subsidies and the sector's sensitivity to price changes and tariffs.

However, many people are still unclear on how the referendum's outcome will affect this key part of our economy.

With the EU referendum on June 23 drawing closer, the UK200Group – the UK's leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms – has asked the official Remain and Leave campaigns a number of key questions, as posed by its members and their clients.

Three of the [30 questions in the report](#) address how the agricultural industry would be affected by the outcome of the vote.

What would happen with farming subsidies?

The Remain campaign said: "The European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development, where Britain gets £1.4bn from 2014 to 2020, and CAP funding, where the EU has earmarked £20bn for UK farmers until 2020, are vital sources of income for our farmers.

"Many of them rely on it for income and may not be able to sustain themselves without this money. Outside of the EU, our access to this crucial funding would be lost.

"The leave campaigns make all sorts of promises about spending fictional savings on the NHS, on agriculture, on schools, but the reality is that leaving the EU would wreck our economy.

"Vote Leave have already been called out on having a £14bn black hole in their spending plans, so farmers cannot trust them on their fantasy plan for Britain outside the EU."

The Leave campaign said: "It is not necessary to be a member of the scheme to guarantee funding or subsidies - the UK supported those who produce its food for years before joining the EU, and would continue to do so after we Vote Leave.

"British farmers would continue to be supported after we Vote Leave. Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland all support their farming sectors outside the EU and the CAP.

"In fact, the payments made by these countries are actually more generous than those paid by the EU to member states.



The Remain campaign said: "It would become more expensive to trade in goods if we leave the EU, through new trade barriers and potential tariffs.

"This would increase the cost of trade to businesses, which could be reflected in higher prices."

The Leave campaign said: "On 5 May 1998, the European Court refused to strike down a worldwide ban on the export of British beef imposed by the European Commission in March 1996 during the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic.

"The ban was eventually lifted by the Commission on 1 August 1999 after a crisis which cost the farming industry an estimated £1.5 billion.

"The Commission could do the same thing again if the UK votes to remain."

The UK200Group compiled the questions in order to address a lack of clarity about how remaining or leaving the EU would affect the small business community.

"David Cameron has guaranteed that British farmers would continue to be supported, writing to the Country Land and Business Association (CLA: 'As long as I am Prime Minister, I would make sure that an agricultural support system would be properly maintained' and appears to commit that he would expect any future Conservative government to do likewise."

What changes would there be, if any, to import and export tariffs on agricultural or other commodity prices?

The Remain campaign said: "If the UK left the EU and did not secure a free trade agreement with it, future UK-EU trade would take place on WTO terms.

"Some leave campaigners back this option. Under WTO terms, the EU could apply 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) tariffs on imports from the UK including agricultural imports."

"This would make UK exports to the EU more expensive, hitting our trade.

"The EU applies an average tariff of 14% on agricultural imports from non-EU countries (including countries with special arrangements with the EU like Norway and Switzerland).

"Tariffs could be higher on some products – for example, up to 42% for some dairy products."

The Leave campaign said: "The independent House of Commons Library concluded that EU membership actually increases the costs of consumer goods.

"It stated that the EU's Common Agricultural Policy 'artificially inflates food prices' and that 'consumer prices across a range of other goods imported from outside the EU are raised as a result of the common external tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade imposed by the EU.

"These include footwear (a 17% tariff), bicycles (15% tariff) and a range of clothing (12% tariff).

"If we Vote Leave, the UK is certain to strike a free trade agreement with the EU which will allow British farmers to sell their produce to the EU without tariffs or quotas.

"The Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond has admitted that a free trade agreement in agricultural goods 'would be relatively simple to negotiate'

What would happen to agricultural commodity prices if there were any trade restrictions of any type?

- Date: 21 June 2016
- Contractor Calculator is the UK's leading guide for contractors from IT, telecoms, engineering, oil, gas, energy, and other sectors.
- Reach: 134,482
- URL:
http://www.contractorcalculator.co.uk/brexit_contracting_uk200group_526110_news.aspx

Brexit and contracting: UK200Group asks should we stay or should we go? Part II

Contractors may still be unsure of their position on the European Union (EU) referendum, as the vote rapidly approaches. ContractorCalculator was exclusively invited to a **UK200Group** event gathering experts evaluating the likely impact of a Brexit on UK contractors and small businesses as part of its 'Campaign for Clarity'.

"We seem to be asked to make a decision based on a series of likelihoods and assumptions referenced by some experts, and there's no definitive answer as to how it will affect business tomorrow," comments panellist and lawyer at Morisons Solicitors Peter Duff. "That's why UK200Group has created this Campaign for Clarity."

Also amongst the panel was UK200Group president and regular ContractorCalculator contributor **James Abbott**, who was joined by various experts in tax, law and finance. The panel discussed arguments from each side's primary campaign group, **Britain Stronger in Europe** (BSIE) and **Vote Leave**, with the discussion being chaired by leading British futurologist and author Dr James Bellini.

In part two of our EU referendum coverage, ContractorCalculator considers the views about the changes contractors may expect in terms of regulations and tax legislation and the likely impact on the contingent workforce.

Leave: Brexit to free contractors from EU regulations

The regulatory framework for UK contractors trading overseas would undoubtedly change if Britain were to leave the EU. Vote Leave has placed much emphasis on the shackles that British business will be free of if a Brexit occurs, adding that the large majority of small limited companies are hit by EU regulations without even trading overseas. In its response the campaign group adds:

"After 40 years of membership, only around 6% of British companies export to the EU, but 100% are caught by EU red tape and have to comply with the full burden of EU regulation. This is damaging. If we take back control we can run our economy in the interests of millions of small businesses and entrepreneurs."

“If we regained independence, would it get any better?”

However, head of corporate development at Seven Investment Management Justin Urquhart Stewart argues that this will see little change if Britain were to regain its independence, due to the relatively small portion of regulations the EU accounts for.

“When you look at the amount of primary legislation affecting the UK, the amount coming out of Brussels actually works out at just under 7%, with the rest being home grown. In terms of secondary legislation, only 15% is inflicted on us by the EU. So I find this argument quite strange.”

Bellini agrees that the current regulatory burden on contractors and business is too high, but encourages contractors to consider the bigger picture when forming a view on whether or not to leave.

“I do think we have inherited and suffer from a dose of over-regulation from Brussels, but we would be subject to excessive regulations even if we broke off from the EU,” he comments.

“Also, a large part of the regulatory system coming out of Brussels on things like quality and standards have actually been quite positive. But it’s the red tape and the dragging of this great weed of bureaucracy that is a major hampering factor for business, and the question is: If we regained independence from the EU, would it get any better?”

Can clarity be achieved from a Brexit?

Regardless of where they originate from, changes to tax rules arguably pose the biggest hurdle for contractors. As well as proving costly in terms of time and compliance costs, tax rules generate much uncertainty. [IR35](#) is just one example of legislation that has been continually tampered with over the years.

Vote Leave argues that the problem of uncertainty would be reduced if Britain opts out of the EU, adding that greater clarity over the future of UK tax will be achieved from not having to comply with EU regulations.

Citing a [European Commission report](#), Vote Leave highlights that the EU intends to take further control over multiple aspects of tax policy that could further impact contractors trading overseas, including the corporate tax base and labour taxation.

Legislation better under EU law

However, BSIE is quick to highlight that the UK retains control of taxation, currency, public spending and interest rates regardless of Britain’s EU status, adding that the Prime Minister’s EU deal protects the UK from further integration in Europe.

This may not be the only benefit to remaining in the EU for contractors from a legislative perspective. As accountant at Haslers Debra Dougal points out, the similarities between the laws governing the UK and the rest of Europe can often provide a form of protection for the taxpayer.

“UK legislation is just an interpretation of EU legislation, and very often that interpretation is not quite as the EU intended it to be. One might hasten to suggest that HMRC interprets legislation in a way that best benefits it, at the detriment of the taxpayer. But we currently have the European Court of Justice there to defend the original position. If we were to leave the EU, this wouldn’t be the case.”

“Will the jelly change shape when you take the mould away?”

The fact that UK laws are largely derivative of EU rules calls into the question the extent of the legislative change contractors would realistically experience if Britain decides to leave.

“We’re told that we’re going to have this two year transition period, but we have gotten so far along the line with a tax system that functions within Europe,” Dougal continues. “Where does that stop? We would have to retain many of the measures already in place.”

Despite actively campaigning for changes in legislation, Vote Leave concedes that nothing drastic is likely to happen anytime soon, adding whatever decisions are ultimately made must be fully considered:

“There will be three stages of creating a new UK-EU deal. Informal negotiations, formal negotiations, and implementation including both a new Treaty and domestic legal changes. There is no need to rush. We must take our time and get it right.”

LAWYER MONTHLY

- Date: 21 June 2016
- Lawyer Monthly is a legal profession magazine and website with a global readership.
- Reach: 179,587
- URL: <http://www.lawyer-monthly.com/2016/06/law-business-to-boom-in-event-of-leave-vote/>



Law Business to Boom in Event of 'Leave' Vote

21 Jun, 2016

Legal expert and UK200Group Executive Board Member Peter Duff has forecast that, in the case of Britain leaving the European Union, lawyers will be busy as our government and businesses adapt to being outside of the trade bloc.

"As a lawyer, it appears to me that the legal profession will have a boom time in the event of Britain leaving the EU – whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'll leave you to judge. It's clear that the new trade deals that are going to be put in place will need to be negotiated. Apparently the UK government has 30 staff in the relevant department and New Zealand has 300 staff in that department, so they're going to be outsourcing that and lawyers are the natural people to outsource that to.

"We also have the existing contracts that our businesses have with the EU countries, which have been negotiated against a backdrop of European law. If we remove ourselves from the European system of law there's going to be some sort of conflict and again, lawyers will slot in to resolve that conflict.

"There's also the questions of if we leave we can no longer appeal to the European Court, then the Supreme Court will be indeed supreme. There will be a rush of cases going to the Supreme Court to overcome what we don't like about the European Court so there's going to be quite a lot of business for lawyers."

Peter Duff, who is a Partner at Glasgow-based Morisons LLP, was speaking as the UK200Group, the UK's leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms, published a [report](#) detailing the top 30 EU Referendum questions asked by SMEs and the respective answers of the official Remain and Leave campaigns.

The UK200Group compiled the [questions](#) in order to address a lack of clarity about how remaining or leaving the EU would affect the small business community.

Dr Bellini was joined by a panel of business leaders, including Seven Investment Management's Justin Urquhart Stewart, Co-Founder and Head of Corporate Development, a renowned market commentator who launched Seven Investment Management with a group of colleagues in 2001.

Justin said, "There is one word that runs any economy – and that is confidence.

"We need confidence so that – consumers buy 'stuff', confidence so that companies invest in capacity and innovation and we need confidence so that overseas investors keep buying our debt to finance our deficit.

"Any wobble in confidence will easily unnerve that confidence, and that could frighten consumers, companies and investors into holding back. Such nerves could increase the cost and potentially lose much of the potential financial benefit that many have hoped for.

"Whatever your views, the effect of this vote is fundamental to the successful functioning of the UK economy.

"Our politicians are playing with fire – and whatever the outcome some of them will suffer the consequences. They may be fired with enthusiasm, but we will end up firing many of them – and with even more enthusiasm.

"We at 7IM have a great weight of responsibility to our investing clients, and regard this as possibly the most important issue we have had to address for them."

(Source: UK200Group)

- Date: 21 June 2016
- Yareah Magazine is an international online magazine.
- Reach: 9,769
- URL: <http://www.yareah.com/2016/06/21/law-business-boom-event-leave-vote/>

Law Business to Boom in Event of 'Leave' Vote



Justin Urquhart Stewart and Peter Duff

Legal expert and UK200Group Executive Board Member Peter Duff has forecast that, in the case of Britain leaving the European Union, lawyers will be busy as our government and businesses adapt to being outside of the trade bloc.

"As a lawyer, it appears to me that the legal profession will have a boom time in the event of Britain leaving the EU – whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'll leave you to judge. It's clear that the new trade deals that are going to be put in place will need to be negotiated. Apparently the UK government has 30 staff in the relevant department and New Zealand has 300 staff in that department, so they're going to be outsourcing that and lawyers are the natural people to outsource that to.

"We also have the existing contracts that our businesses have with the EU countries, which have been negotiated against a backdrop of European law. If we remove ourselves from the European system of law there's going to be some sort of conflict and again, lawyers will slot in to resolve that conflict.

"There's also the questions of if we leave we can no longer appeal to the European Court, then the Supreme Court will be indeed supreme. There will be a rush of cases going to the Supreme Court to overcome what we don't like about the European Court so there's going to be quite a lot of business for lawyers."

Peter Duff, who is a Partner at Glasgow-based **Morisons LLP**, was speaking as the **UK200Group** – the UK's leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms – published a report detailing the **top 30 EU Referendum questions asked by SMEs** and the respective answers of the official Remain and Leave campaigns.

The UK200Group compiled the questions in order to address a lack of clarity about how remaining or leaving the EU would affect the small business community.

Collectively, the UK200Group's members support over 150,000 SMEs, and the questions put to **Britain Stronger in Europe** and **Vote Leave** were all sourced from the association's members and their clients.

The briefing, which took place at the offices of **Seven Investment Management**, was chaired by futurologist and author **Dr James Bellini**, who spent 25 years in the broadcasting industry presenting programmes such as *The Money Programme*, *Newsnight* and *Panorama*, and as a studio presenter with *Financial Times Television* and *Sky News*.

Dr Bellini was joined by a panel of business leaders, including Seven Investment Management's Justin Urquhart Stewart, Co-Founder and Head of Corporate Development, a renowned market commentator who launched Seven Investment Management with a group of colleagues in 2001.

Justin said, "There is one word that runs any economy – and that is confidence.

"We need confidence so that – consumers buy "stuff", confidence so that companies invest in capacity and innovation and we need confidence so that overseas investors keep buying our debt to finance our deficit.

"Any wobble in confidence will easily unnerve that confidence, and that could frighten consumers, companies and investors into holding back. Such nerves could increase the cost and potentially lose much of the potential financial benefit that many have hoped for.

"Whatever your views, the effect of this vote is fundamental to the successful functioning of the UK economy.

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"We at 7IM have a great weight of responsibility to our investing clients, and regard this as possibly the most important issue we have had to address for them."

The UK200Group was represented by some of its most senior members, including its President, James Abbott. James founded **Abbott Moore LLP** – an accountancy firm based in Bedfordshire – in 2012.

Peter Duff is an expert in business law and brought a uniquely Scottish viewpoint to the discussion.

Debra Dougal of **Haslers Accountants** also joined the panel. Debra has great experience of VAT consultancy, especially with regard to the property and construction industries.

The UK200Group, which was established in 1986, represents a group of trusted, quality-assured business advisers – accountants and lawyers – who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. As such, the UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10% of all registered academies, more than 8,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

- Date: 22 June 2016
- Agra Europe is a global information specialist for the food and agricultural supply chain.
- URL: <https://www.agra-net.com/agra/agra-europe/brexit/brexit-referendum-survey-hints-at-how-both-camps-see-future-for-uk-agriculture-518850.htm>

'Brexit' referendum: Survey hints at how both camps see future for UK agriculture

By Adam Sharpe
Published: 22 June 2016 12:19 PM

As the UK's EU referendum draws near, a new survey has at least partially revealed how both sides of the debate see the agricultural industry being affected by the outcome of the vote.



The UK200Group, which describes itself as the UK's leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms, asked the Leave and Remain camps, represented by Vote Leave and Britain Stronger in Europe respectively, a series of key questions put to it by its members and their clients.

Three of the questions in the report, which is available to download [here](#), relate to agriculture and in particular farming subsidies, trade and the impact on commodity prices.

On the issue of **agricultural subsidies** and the CAP, the Remain camp points to the £1.4 billion that Britain receives from EU Agriculture Fund for Rural Development from 2014-2020 as well as the £20bn earmarked for direct payments, claiming that many farmers "may not be able to sustain themselves without this money".

"The leave campaigns make all sorts of promises about spending fictional savings on the NHS, on agriculture, on schools, but the reality is that leaving the EU would wreck our economy, and Vote Leave have already been called out on having a £14bn black hole in their spending plans, so farmers cannot trust them on their fantasy plan for Britain outside the EU," Britain Stronger in Europe said.

Vote Leave countered this argument by stating that it is not necessary to be a member of the EU to guarantee funding or subsidies to the agriculture sector and held up the examples of Switzerland, Norway and Iceland, which all support their farming sectors outside of the EU and CAP.

"In fact, the payments made by these countries are actually more generous than those paid by the EU to member states," it said.

Vote Leave added that "David Cameron has guaranteed that British farmers would continue to be supported [in the event of a Brexit]", in reference to a **letter** the Prime Minister wrote to the landowners' group the Country Land and Business Association (CLA).

Pro-Brexit farming minister George Eustice has previously said that he believes around **£2bn per year** could be available to a post-Brexit UK government to spend on agriculture, compared with the current circa £3bn received from the CAP, and also favours a shift to insurance-based schemes similar to those deployed in North America.

Northern Ireland's farming minister Michelle McIlveen, a member of the pro-Leave DUP party, today (June 22) said there is "no reason" why subsidies to farmers will not continue if the UK votes to exit the EU, but at the same time did not guarantee they would be maintained at the same level.



This is in stark contrast to her predecessor in the role, Michelle O'Neill who strongly backs 'Remain' and insisted that leaving the bloc "would have a hugely negative impact on agriculture and agri-food industries" in Northern Ireland.

Trade impact

The Leave campaign also claimed in response to a question from UK200Group on **import and export tariffs** on agricultural and other commodity prices, that the CAP artificially increases the cost of food.

It was also bullish about the prospect of securing a favourable trade deal with the EU. "If we Vote Leave, the UK is certain to strike a free trade agreement with the EU which will allow British farmers to sell their produce to the EU without tariffs or quotas," it insisted.

But the Remain campaign said there was no guarantee that a trade agreement with the EU will be struck and that future UK-EU trade could take place on World Trade Organisation terms.

"Under WTO terms, the EU could apply 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) tariffs on imports from the UK, including agricultural imports. This would make UK exports to the EU more expensive, hitting our trade," it said.

"The EU applies an average tariff of 14% on agricultural imports from non-EU countries (including countries with special arrangements with the EU like Norway and Switzerland). Tariffs could be higher on some products – for example, up to 42% for some dairy products."

Usdaw, the shopworkers trade union, and retailers insisted in a **statement yesterday** (June 21) that leaving the EU would increase the annual price of buying basic goods and services such as food, drink and clothing. The costs to families would rise by £580 per year due to a hit in the value of sterling and the imposition of tariffs by the EU, it claimed.

Richard Lloyd, former executive director of consumer group Which?, added he was now "convinced that leaving the EU will give ordinary British families a worse deal for years to come". "My advice to consumers is clear - this could be an expensive mistake, don't risk it," he said.

But Vote Leave rejected the claims. "Independent experts are clear, EU membership and the meddling court that comes with it have put up prices and hurt our economic growth," its chief executive Matthew Elliott. "The EU is costly, bureaucratic and blind to the impact it has had on people's wages and soaring energy bills."

Commodity prices

Finally, the UK200Group asked both camps what would happen to **agricultural commodity prices** if trade restrictions were imposed post-Brexit.

Britain Stronger in Europe stated clearly: "It would become more expensive to trade in goods if we leave the EU, through new trade barriers and potential tariffs. This would increase the cost of trade to businesses, which could be reflected in higher prices."

When asked the same question, the Leave campaign only made reference to the **European Court decision** in 1998 against the UK's claim that a worldwide ban on the export of British beef imposed by the European Commission during the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in March 1996 should be removed.

"The ban was eventually lifted by the Commission on 1 August 1999 after a crisis which cost the farming industry an estimated £1.5 billion," Vote Leave said. "The Commission could do the same thing again if the UK votes to remain."

EU referendum: Confidence is key as markets ponder Brexit

By Cambridge News | Posted: June 22, 2016

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Justin Urquhart Stewart, right, says politicians are 'playing with fire' when it comes to Brexit

Comments (0)

Politicians are "playing with fire" when it comes to the effect a Brexit would have on the economy.

That's according to market commentator Justin Urquhart Stewart, co-founder at accountancy firm Seven Investment Management.

Ahead of Thursday's referendum on Britain's EU membership, he said: "There is one word that runs any economy - and that is confidence.

- Date: 22 June 2016
- Cambridge News is a British Newspaper that publishes every weekday and Saturdays.
- Reach: 207,783
- URL: <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/eu-referendum-confidence-is-key-as-markets-ponder-brexit/story-29427863-detail/story.html>

"We need confidence so that - consumers buy "stuff", confidence so that companies invest in capacity and innovation and we need confidence so that overseas investors keep buying our debt to finance our deficit.

"Any wobble in confidence will easily unnerve that confidence, and that could frighten consumers, companies and investors into holding back. Such nerves could increase the cost and potentially lose much of the potential financial benefit that many have hoped for."

Urquhart Stewart was speaking at the launch of a report, detailing the top 30 EU Referendum questions asked by SMEs. Published by the UK200Group, a member organisation for accountants and law firms, it contains answers from the official Remain and Leave campaigns to 30 questions submitted by small businesses.

It aims to address a lack of clarity about how remaining or leaving the EU would affect the small business community.

Urquhart Stewart added: "Whatever your views, the effect of this vote is fundamental to the successful functioning of the UK economy.

"Our politicians are playing with fire - and whatever the outcome some of them will suffer the consequences. They may be fired with enthusiasm, but we will end up firing many of them - and with even more enthusiasm."



- Date: 22 June 2016
- Direct Commerce magazine is a bi-monthly print magazine.
- Reach: 8,000
- URL:
<http://www.directcommercemagazine.com/news/legallegislation/law-key-eu-referendum-questions-answered>

Law: Key EU Referendum Questions Answered

As part of its commitment to the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) business community, the UK200Group has launched its Campaign for Clarity ahead of the EU Referendum on June 23.

With this in mind, the UK200Group asked its members and their clients to contribute their most important business questions to a document that was then submitted to Britain Stronger in Europe and Vote Leave. The answers were received between May 12 and 24 2016 and are documented in the report.

The UK200Group, established in 1986, represents a significant group of trusted, quality-assured business advisers – chartered accountants and lawyers – who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. As such, the UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10 per cent of all registered academies, more than 3,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

Below are the answers to the key legal questions. The Remain camp, as the nearest to status quo, has had its answers listed first, followed by those of the Leave camp.

The UK200Group is impartial in the EU referendum debate and seeks only to provide clarity to its members on issues that will affect them. As such, the following answers are provided verbatim from Britain Stronger in Europe and Vote Leave and are combined for the first time in this document.

1. As we have had a history of input regarding European legislation, is it expected that the UK legal profession, if we exit the EU, continue to bear strong influence from Europe, particularly in the area of Human Rights and cross border matters?

Remain:

If we leave the EU, we would still be part of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which is not a part of the EU. This is a binding convention tied to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg which the UK is signed up to, so this would remain, and would be a lasting European legal influence in the UK.

Leave:

While we remain in an unreformed EU, the UK lacks the power to 'break the formal link between British courts and the European Court of Human Rights', as was promised before the last election (Conservative Party Manifesto, 2015). Allowing the European Court to stay in charge of these matters will cause great uncertainty for business as it uses the Charter of Fundamental Rights to take more powers from the member states. After we Vote Leave, it would be for the UK Parliament and UK Supreme Court to decide the appropriate means and levels of UK Human Rights protections.

2. Being so closely tied to Europe, in or out, will our legal profession still have any influence on European issues, or can we return to a legal system not hampered and / or handcuffed by EU legislation?

Remain:

It is abundantly clear that the UK will lose influence if we leave the EU. Britain is a champion in many fields and across professions, and our knowledge and expertise influences others. We benefit from EU funding and EU schemes, which help us project and influence others.

If we leave the EU, not only will we lose our vital influence and say over decisions in the EU institutions, we will also lose access to countless research and cooperation programmes through which our world-leading experts currently help shape global thinking.



Leave:

Inside the EU, the UK will remain constantly outvoted by the Eurozone, with the result that damaging EU legislation will continue to be imposed on us. The UK has been outvoted every time it has voted against an EU measure - 72 times in total. 40 of these defeats have taken place since David Cameron became Prime Minister (Vote Leave, October 2015). The UK has no influence at present.

After we Vote Leave, we will be able to influence global standard-setting bodies more effectively and regain an influential voice on the world stage. Many EU rules are actually set at an international level. EU members have little influence on this because the Commission speaks for them in key international bodies.

The Commission often adds unnecessary bureaucracy to global rules for EU-based producers, and these EU rules are then extremely hard to change. After we Vote Leave, we would take back control of our seats in these organisations, and be better able to influence global and European policy.

3. Is it possible that Legal Aid funding could increase without the need to fund our commitment to the EU?

Remain:

Leaving the single market would mean an annual £36 billion black hole in the public finances, which would mean less money for our public services like Legal Aid funding.

Leave:

We send more than £350 million to the EU every week, and after we Vote Leave, we would take back control of this money and could ensure that it is spent on our priorities. It would be for the UK Parliament and UK voters to decide whether they would wish to increase funding for Legal Aid, but there would be financial resources available for this, that we would no longer need to send to the EU, should they choose.

4. What impact would it have on the Supreme Court?

Remain:

If we leave the EU, we would still be part of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which is not a part of the EU. This is a binding convention tied to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg which the UK is signed up to, so UK courts would continue to be bound by this legal framework.

Leave:

The UK Supreme Court would become the UK's court of last resort. It would no longer be subject to the primacy of EU law, and need to follow the direction of the European Court.

5. What would be the cut off for cases going to the European Court of Justice?

Remain:

This would depend on the kind of future relationship Britain would have with the EU.

Leave:

After we Vote Leave, it would be for the UK and the EU to determine the cut off. After we Vote Leave, we would expect Parliament to legislate to amend or repeal the 1972 Act which gives the European Court control over our law. However, the referendum will have no legal consequences save for the certification of the result by the Chief Counting Officer (Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, s.128(6)). After the UK voted to leave, it would therefore initially continue to be a member of all the EU institutions under the EU treaties with the voting rights of a full member.



- Date: 24 June 2016
- BizPlus.ie is the website of Business Plus, Ireland's largest circulation monthly business magazine.
- Reach: 1,843
- URL: <http://bizplus.ie/can-british-smes-expect-brexit/>

What Can British SMEs Expect From Brexit?

UK200Group says UK/Ireland common travel area will continue

24 Jun 2016 | 03.36 pm

Share



As part of its commitment to the SME business community, the **UK200Group** launched its 'Campaign for Clarity' before the EU referendum. The group asked its members and their clients to contribute their most important business questions to a document that was then submitted to 'Vote Leave'.

The UK200Group represents a significant group of chartered accountants and lawyers who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. The UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10% of all registered academies, more than 3,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

The organisation was impartial in the EU referendum debate and sought only to provide clarity to its members on issues that will affect them. Now that the UK has voted to leave the EU, it is useful to review Vote Leave's answers to the key business questions posed by SME owners, which may hold some clues as to what the future may hold.



What would happen with farming subsidies? Would we keep much the same model, and either pay the same and have our farmers receive more than they do now or pay less and have them receive the same, or would we move to a different model?

It is not necessary to be a member of the scheme to guarantee funding or subsidies — the UK supported those who produce its food for years before joining the EU, and would continue to do so after we vote to leave. British farmers would continue to be supported. Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland all support their farming sectors outside the EU and the CAP.

In fact, the payments made by these countries are actually more generous than those paid by the EU to member states. David Cameron has guaranteed that British farmers would continue to be supported, writing to the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) ‘As long as I am Prime Minister, I would make sure that an agricultural support system would be properly maintained’ and appears to commit that he would expect any future Conservative government to do likewise (10 Downing Street, 12 April 2016).

What changes would there be, if any, to import and export tariffs on agricultural or other commodity prices?

The independent House of Commons Library has concluded that EU membership actually increases the costs of consumer goods, stating that the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy ‘artificially inflates food prices’ and that ‘consumer prices across a range of other goods imported from outside the EU are raised as a result of the common external tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade imposed by the EU.

These include footwear (a 17% tariff), bicycles (15% tariff) and a range of clothing (12% tariff)’ (House of Commons Library, 18 September 2013). If we vote Leave, the UK is certain to strike a free trade agreement with the EU which will allow British farmers to sell their produce to the EU without tariffs or quotas. The Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond

has admitted that a free trade agreement in agricultural goods ‘would be relatively simple to negotiate’ (HC Deb 26 February 2015, col. 501).

What would happen to agricultural commodity prices if there were any trade restrictions of any type?

On 5 May 1998, the European Court refused to strike down a worldwide ban on the export of British beef imposed by the European Commission in March 1996 during the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic (Decision 1996/239/EC; United Kingdom v Commission [1998] ECR I-2265). The ban was eventually lifted by the Commission on 1 August 1999 after a crisis which cost the farming industry an estimated £1.5 billion (BBC News, 14 July 1999). The Commission could do the same thing again if the UK votes to remain.

Business Growth

Our surveys show that the number one issue for SMEs is growth – it has been the same issue for four years. Business confidence amongst company directors drives M&A activity – whether it be the confidence of growth or the ability to raise finance. What impact will the decision to leave or stay have on the growth prospects of SMEs? How would it affect investment going forward?

After we vote Leave, the UK would improve upon the trade agreements that the EU has negotiated, which have generally proved of limited benefit to British companies. The rate of the UK’s export growth to third-party countries with which the EU has a trade agreement has fallen in the case of two out of every three free trade agreements that the Commission has negotiated (Civitas, January 2016).

Outside the EU, we will be able to strike free trade agreements with emerging economies, such as Brazil, India and China. This is likely to reduce prices for consumers and be good for jobs, growth and investment. If we vote to remain, the UK will be unable to make trade

Article has been
abridged

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- Reach: 500,000
- URL:
<http://www.twinfm.com/article.php?artid=3254&title=Legal&article=lawyers-love-leave-lolly>

Jun 24 2016

by Brian Shillibeer

Legal expert and UK200Group Executive Board Member Peter Duff has forecast that with Britain leaving the European Union, lawyers will be raking-in the lolly as government and businesses adapt.

"As a lawyer, it appears to me that the legal profession will have a boom time with Britain leaving the EU – whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'll leave you to judge. It's clear that the new trade deals that are going to be put in place will need to be negotiated. Apparently the UK government has 30 staff in the relevant department and New Zealand has 300 staff in that department, so they're going to be outsourcing that and lawyers are the natural people to outsource that to.

"We also have the existing contracts that our businesses have with the EU countries, which have been negotiated against a backdrop of European law. If we remove ourselves from the European system of law there's going to be some sort of conflict and again, lawyers will slot in to resolve that conflict.

"There's also the questions of if we leave we can no longer appeal to the European Court, then the Supreme Court will be indeed supreme. There will be a rush of cases going to the Supreme Court to overcome what we don't like about the European Court so there's going to be quite a lot of business for lawyers."

Wobble

UK200Group is a membership association of independent chartered accountancy and law firms. Justin Urquhart Stewart, Co-Founder and Head of Corporate Development, said: "There is one word that runs any economy - and that is confidence. We need confidence so that - consumers buy stuff, confidence so that companies invest in capacity and innovation and we need confidence so that overseas investors keep buying our debt to finance our deficit.

"Any wobble in confidence will easily unnerve that confidence, and that could frighten consumers, companies and investors into holding back. Such nerves could increase the cost and potentially lose much of the potential financial benefit that many have hoped for."



- Date: 25 June 2016
- The European Supermarket Magazine is Europe's dedicated magazine for the European grocery sector.
- Reach: 1,795
- URL: <http://www.esmmagazine.com/vote-leave-result-what-can-british-farmers-and-smes-expect/29243>

Vote Leave Result: What Can British Farmers And SMEs Expect?

Published on Jun 25 2016 12:32 PM in Supply Chain tagged: Brexit / SMEs



As part of the UK200Group's Campaign for Clarity on the EU referendum, the group asked its members and their clients to contribute their most important business questions to a document that was then submitted to Vote Leave.

Now that the UK has voted to leave the EU, here are Vote Leave's answers to the key business questions posed by SME owners, which may hold some clues as to what the future may hold.

Agriculture

SME Question:

1. What would happen with farming subsidies? Would we keep much the same model, and either pay the same and have our farmers receive more than they do now or pay less and have them receive the same, or would we move to a different model?

Vote Leave Answer:

It is not necessary to be a member of the scheme to guarantee funding or subsidies - the UK supported those who produce its food for years before joining the EU, and would continue to do so after we Vote Leave. British farmers would continue to be supported after we Vote Leave. Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland all support their farming sectors outside the EU and the CAP.



In fact, the payments made by these countries are actually more generous than those paid by the EU to member states. David Cameron has guaranteed that British farmers would continue to be supported, writing to the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) with 'As long as I am Prime Minister, I would make sure that an agricultural support system would be properly maintained' and appears to commit that he would expect any future Conservative government to do likewise (10 Downing Street, 12 April 2016).

SME Question:

2. What changes would there be, if any, to import and export tariffs on agricultural or other commodity prices?

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SME Question:

3. What would happen to agricultural commodity prices if there were any trade restrictions of any type?

Vote Leave Answer:

On 5 May 1998, the European Court refused to strike down a worldwide ban on the export of British beef imposed by the European Commission in March 1996 during the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic (Decision 1996/239/EC; United Kingdom v Commission [1998] ECR I-2265). The ban was eventually lifted by the Commission on 1 August 1999 after a crisis which cost the farming industry an estimated £1.5 billion (BBC News, 14 July 1999). The Commission could do the same thing again if the UK had voted to remain.

SME Question:

4. Our surveys show that the number one issue for SMEs is growth – it has been the same issue for four years. Business confidence amongst company directors drives M&A activity – whether it be the confidence of growth or the ability to raise finance. What impact will the decision to leave or stay have on the growth prospects of SMEs? How would it affect investment going forward?

Vote Leave Answer:

After we Vote Leave, the UK would improve upon the trade agreements that the EU has negotiated, which have generally proved of limited benefit to British companies. The rate of the UK's export growth to third-party countries with which the EU has a trade agreement has fallen in the case of two out of every three free trade agreements that the Commission has negotiated (Civitas, January 2016).

Outside the EU, we will be able to strike free trade agreements with emerging economies, such as Brazil, India and China. This is likely to reduce prices for consumers and be good for jobs, growth and investment. If we voted to remain, the UK would be unable to make trade deals with the rest of the world as the Eurozone economy stagnates. This means that the UK would remain unable to trade on favourable terms with major emerging economies in the years ahead, while remaining tied to the failing Eurozone.

Investment into the UK from the EU will continue after we Vote Leave. Surveys of international investors show that they want the UK to have looser links with the EU (EY, 2013). The pro-euro campaign made all sorts of claims that investment would collapse unless we joined the euro (BBC News, 12 May 2003). It didn't happen then and it won't happen by voting to Leave.

Employment

SME Question:

5. Many SMEs cannot find the skills they need to do the work they have, so free movement of people is important. How will SMEs' ability to find and retain the right people be affected? This applies across the board, from minimum wage workers to skilled professionals.

Vote Leave Answer:

After we Vote Leave, the UK Government could introduce an immigration system that is fair and works for the UK's economic interests. The EU's immigration system is immoral, expensive and out of control. EU law demands that the UK has an open door to European countries, while simultaneously stopping highly skilled people from outside the EU coming to the UK to contribute. This has resulted in large numbers of people from across Europe coming to our country.

Article has been
abridged

- Date: 26 June 2016
- This appeared in the print edition of the Mail on Sunday
- Reach: 1,351,128

Investment plans in chaos as small firms fear uncertainty

'Businesses need answers to big questions' as vote has immediate effect on trade

EXPANSION plans are already being put on hold by small enterprises following Friday's referendum result, experts have warned. James Abbott, president of UK2000org, an association of advisory accountants and lawyers, said: "The legalities of Brexit will take a good two years at least to be put in place, but there are implications in the very short term."

For example, I have a client who is a plumber and he is concerned about how customers are going to feel. Confidence is a big thing, particularly over these next few weeks. He was thinking of buying a van, but will probably delay that decision until we know more about what is going to happen.

"The result affects even the little businesses. We've got eBay sellers and they often buy goods from places like China because they are cheaper. Now the change in foreign exchange rates is going to have an impact on them. When they are buying things are no longer going to be cheaper, so even the smallest businesses are going to be hit by the immediate changes that have happened literally overnight."

Adam Marshall, acting director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "I think a period of reflection and analysis is in order. Companies need to assess their level of exposure to the coming transition and the opportunities and challenges that presents."

That aside, businesses across the UK will expect stability, clarity and answers to some of the big questions they face. So they don't want an all-encompassing Westminster post-mortem. They want real attention to issues that the economy faces alongside the start of this very big transition."

He added: "For some companies there will be a direct and immediate impact. Quoted companies have even seen that. Particular sectors like financial services and housebuilding have also seen some big effects in the short term."

"Companies that trade with Europe will obviously be looking carefully at everything from currency fluctuations through to their future export strategy or investment strategy. And importers will also be thinking about where their goods come from and the impact on their margins."

"So every business has its



Vicki Owen
OWNER OF THE YEAR

own set of considerations and challenges to look at as we approach the transition to leaving the European Union."

Claire Burrows, founder of shoe maker Air & Grace, has just started exporting to Japan and Germany and had been looking into her 'next steps' for further exports, but she expects to put that on hold now.

She said: "For my business it is tricky. I think it is for everybody, because there will definitely be a period of uncertainty, which I feel will hit consumer confidence. Nobody really knows what is going to happen. It will lead to prices going up, prices in my case. I'm buying my shoes from Portugal at the moment."

She said the referendum had already affected her before the result was announced. "I've taken that hit on the margin," she said. "If the pound is to be devalued further, I couldn't do. That's just going to lead to me having to put the prices up and pass it on to the consumer, which I don't want to have to do, especially as we've got a very price competitive product that is working. To put your prices up is automatically a barrier to growth."

"I was purchasing. I had orders coming out of the factory, at the time the pound dropped against the euro, back in the spring. After the referendum was announced there was a bit of a wobble on exchange rates, and that hit me."

"Going forwards, you can't sustain absorbing that into the margin. This is a small business - I just don't have that capability."

But Marshall warned against exaggerating the effect of the referendum on investment and export plans. He said: "It's too early to tell whether businesses are going to simply slam on the brakes. Inevitably, some firms will deem it necessary to put future plans on hold, but we have to be very careful not to overblow that possibility. Because in addition many firms may see some big opportunities over the coming weeks."

WHONG-FOOTED Shoe firm boss Claire Burrows says she cannot absorb more currency-induced price rises



POSITIVE Edward Poland, whose company Hire Space rents venues such as the restaurant in London's Gherkin building, is still optimistic for the events market

SMALL businesses are preparing to shore up Britain's role as a haven for high-tech start-ups in the wake of the Brexit vote.

While one entrepreneur called the result 'a disaster for this country', others called for action to protect London's leading status in the fast-growing sector.

Technology start-up Hire Space, an online market for venue hire backed by Karen Haunton, who founded restaurant booking website Topobla, has warned it is important that "we protect London's position as an emerging tech centre by addressing skills gaps in the sector through investment in training and development."

Hire Space co-founder Edward Poland, 31, who voted Remain in the referendum, said: "Access to top talent, particularly in technology roles, is hugely important for any growing firm."

"The next 18 months is going to be instructive in terms of how we recruit and retain top talent. We employ six continental staff and have benefited from the free movement of workers."

But Poland, who just secured £300,000 from more than 200 venture, event professionals and private investors via Crowdfunder, said he would stay positive. He added: "The events industry is ripe for innovation and the way in which venues and event organisers have embraced technology and ideas should give everyone in the industry great confidence."

The global events market is

Bosses call for training to protect London's role as a technology centre

worth £200 billion. Moving from 4,000 venues to 40,000 venues is a challenge, but one we're excited about."

Other tech firms are less optimistic. A survey of UK tech workers before the referendum revealed 65 per cent thought Brexit would hit the industry. The study by Jagger Research found seven in ten respondents believed it would be more difficult for UK tech firms to attract skilled continental staff.

Nearly two-thirds believed the tech industry would suffer from reduced EU funding and London would be less attractive as a tech hub. Jacyn Harewood, chief executive at Egon Now, which makes point-of-sale software, said: "Many modern firms work within a network of European partners, suppliers and event customers and rely on a pan-European workforce. How will this be affected? How will Brexit impact our relationship with EU firms who have long seen the UK

as a channel to the Continent?" Angus Dean, chief executive of peer-to-peer lender Archibet, said the outcome was a disaster for this country, and added: "You can expect foreign businesses, institutions and other investors to start pulling out of the UK."

"The Chancellor will be forced to put together an emergency Budget and this country, which was on course to become the world's fourth largest economy, will now go backwards."

"What a waste of all the hard work."

Debbie Winkless, chief executive of home exchange website Love Home Swap and founding chairwoman of trade body Sharing Economy UK, described the result as 'reluctant'. She said: "It is disappointing that we are in this situation. Entrepreneurs need to draw on their ability to embrace change and carve out a new way forward."

Britain's 'unicorns' - private firms with a valuation above \$1 billion (£710 million) - that spoke out against Brexit include TransferWise, Funding Circle, Zoopla and Veeva. David Brown, chief executive of e-commerce technology company Vi, had argued that Britain should further increase our ties with Europe on a trade and economic basis.

How Brexit will affect YOUR money

DON'T MISS OUR FREE 16-page pullout inside

- Date: 26 June 2016
- This is Money is a part of the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday & Metro media group and focuses on personal finance.
- Reach: 1,251,617
- URL:
<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/smallbusiness/article-3660672/Investment-plans-chaos-small-firms-fear-uncertainty-Brexit-vote.html>

Investment plans in chaos as small firms fear uncertainty after Brexit: 'Businesses need answers to big questions' as vote has immediate effect on trade

By VICKI OWEN FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

PUBLISHED: 12:03, 26 June 2016 | UPDATED: 10:50, 27 June 2016



View comments

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Wrong-footed: Shoe firm boss Claire Burrows says she cannot absorb more currency-induced price rises

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- URL:
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- Date: 26 June 2016
- This is the website of the Mail On Sunday.
- Reach: 48,130,154
- URL:
<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/money/smallbusiness/article-3660672/Investment-plans-chaos-small-firms-fear-uncertainty-Brexit-vote.html>

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'Going forwards, you can't sustain absorbing that into the margin. This is a small business - I just don't have that capability.'

But Marshall warned against exaggerating the effect of the referendum on investment and export plans.

He said: 'It's too early to tell whether businesses are going to simply slam on the brakes. Inevitably, some firms will deem it necessary to put future plans on hold, but we have to be very careful not to overblow that possibility. Because in addition many firms may see some big opportunities over the coming weeks.'

