Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

Consultation on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and Thailand

Publication date: 24 November 2026

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Overview

This consultation is to inform United Kingdom priorities in possible negotiations with Thailand on a bilateral free trade agreement.

The UK Government wants views on the opportunities, priorities and considerations linked to a deeper trading relationship with Thailand. This is an early stage in assessing future trade opportunities.

Businesses, civil society organisations, consumers and individuals across the UK can share their priorities. The government will consider all responses alongside economic and policy analysis.

You can also upload your own evidence. The questionnaire should take about 15 minutes to complete. You can upload up to 6 files, each no larger than 30 MB, in PDF, document or spreadsheet format.

The UK Government welcomes responses from a broad range of stakeholders. We ask demographic questions to help us understand who has responded. The privacy and confidentiality section explains how we use this information.

This questionnaire closes on **24 January 2027.**

The government will publish a response in due course.

Privacy and confidentiality

This notice explains your rights and how the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) will use your personal data. BIST will treat your information responsibly, keep it secure and process it correctly and proportionately. The notice explains what we collect, why we process it and who we may share it with.

Purpose

The government is committed to an ambitious, transparent and inclusive UK trade policy. It considers views from the public, devolved governments and regions, businesses, civil society groups, consumers, associations and international stakeholders.

The government is running a two-month consultation on a possible free trade agreement between the UK and Thailand.

We will process personal information received through this consultation to understand views from the public, businesses and other organisations.

We use personal data to identify responses from bots or fraudulent sources and protect the consultation. We may use your contact details to discuss your response or related trade policy issues. We may also use personal information for statistics about who takes part and to remove your response if you ask us to do so.

We are trialling artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to support our work. We will follow data protection law and Information Commissioner's Office guidance. We will not use AI alone to make or inform decisions about you unless we tell you clearly in advance. Any use of AI will be subject to appropriate human oversight.

Legal basis for processing your data

We will store your data securely. Access to the original data and a pseudonymised version will be restricted. We process your personal data under Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation because it is necessary for a task carried out in the public interest: consulting on trade policy.

This task includes:

- designing an effective trade agreement
- ensuring UK negotiation policy reflects stakeholders' views
- allowing BIST to follow up points raised through the consultation

For special category data, including ethnicity and trade union affiliation, we rely on Article 9(2)(g) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 8 of the Data Protection Act 2018. This supports equality of opportunity or treatment and is in the substantial public interest.

Your personal data

We will collect the following mandatory information:

- first name and surname
- email address
- internet protocol (IP) address
- name of the organisation or business you represent, if any

We collect this information to understand which parts of the public, business community and other organisations have contributed to the consultation.

Special category data

Under Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, we may collect data about:

- racial or ethnic origin, to understand whether we have heard from a broad range of stakeholders
- trade union representation, by asking for the name of the trade union represented in a response

We do not treat the name of a represented trade union as evidence of personal membership. We protect this data through restricted access and pseudonymised reference numbers.

How we may share your information

We will actively use personal data for analysis and reporting for 6 to 12 months. Access to identifiable data will be limited to authorised officials, analysts and lawyers working on this consultation. After that period, we will remove personal identifiers and retain pseudonymised data for 5 to 7 years for audit, accountability and research. We will not retain data for longer than necessary or for more than 10 years.

We initially store identifiable data with restricted access. We pseudonymise data before wider sharing and longer-term retention. We will use pseudonymised data to identify a person only when strictly necessary for legal or audit purposes and only through authorised access.

We may process and share data within BIST and with selected third parties. We will not share your data outside the UK.

We may share data with:

- Qualtrics, as the data processor
- other government departments, using pseudonymised data only
- specialist organisations, including the Office for National Statistics, to produce aggregated analysis

We may share aggregated analysis with the Information Commissioner’s Office, Government Internal Audit Agency, National Audit Office and central government departments. If we need to share personal data with another third party, we will update this privacy notice first.

We will not:

- sell or rent your data to third parties
- share your data with third parties for marketing

We will share data if the law or a court order requires it, or to prevent fraud or another crime.

How long we will retain your information for

Only authorised BIST staff and Qualtrics will access identifiable data. We will pseudonymise data before sharing it with other government departments or specialist organisations. We will keep personal data only while needed and for no more than 10 years, including to meet legal, accounting or reporting duties.

Your rights and access to your information

You can request a copy of the personal data that we hold about you. The Data Protection Act also gives you additional rights that refer to how BIST holds and uses your information. Depending on the circumstances, you can also:

1. object to how we process your data
2. withdraw consent or ask us to restrict further processing
3. ask us to delete data when there is no compelling reason to keep it
4. ask us to correct inaccurate or incomplete data
5. ask not to be subject to automated decision-making, including profiling
6. ask how we process your personal data and request a copy

Identity and contact details

The Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade is registered as a data controller under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.

Data Protection Officer
Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2DY
United Kingdom

Email: data.protection@businessandtrade.gov.uk

You can complain to our Data Protection Officer if you think we have not handled your personal information correctly. If you are not satisfied with the response, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Confidentiality

We may need to share your information if the law requires it. We will do our best to keep it confidential. Information provided through this consultation may be published or disclosed under

the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or Data Protection Act 2018.

Tell us which information you want us to treat as confidential and explain why. If it is commercially sensitive, explain why. We will consider your explanation if we receive a request for disclosure, but we cannot guarantee confidentiality in every circumstance.

By answering the questions, you acknowledge that we will process personal data under this notice. BIST may contact you about this consultation or related trade policy work. We may share data with other UK government departments as needed. Published consultation material will not include personally identifiable details.

Have you read and accepted the privacy notice, and obtained consent from the organisation you represent where required?

You must select Yes to continue.

- Yes
- No

Do you consent to the voluntary information you provide being used in a published government response?

- Yes
- No

Do you consent to BIST or organisations working on its behalf contacting you about wider trade policy and related developments?

- Yes
- No

What is your first name and surname?

This information is mandatory. Do not include personal information about other people.

What is your email address?

This information is mandatory. Do not include personal information about other people.

Consultation questions

1. Identifying the respondent

Who are you responding as?

- An individual, providing personal views
- A non-governmental organisation, trade union, academic institution or other organisation
- A public sector body
- A business
- A business association

2. Trade priorities

Issues to consider

Which issues should the UK Government consider when deepening the UK's trade relationship with Thailand?

Select all that apply.

- Initial provisions and general definitions
- National treatment and market access for goods
- Rules of origin and origin procedures
- Textile and apparel goods
- Energy and raw materials
- Customs administration and trade facilitation
- Trade remedies
- Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Animal welfare
- Technical barriers to trade
- Investment
- Cross-border trade in services
- Financial services
- Temporary entry for business persons
- Telecommunications
- Digital trade

- Government procurement
- Competition policy
- State-owned enterprises and designated monopolies
- Intellectual property
- Labour
- Environment
- Cooperation and capacity building
- Competitiveness and business facilitation
- Trade and development
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Regulatory coherence
- Transparency and anti-corruption
- Administrative and institutional provisions
- Dispute settlement
- Exceptions and general provisions
- Final provisions
- Other, please specify
- None of these
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Further details

Why should the UK Government consider the issues you selected?

Be specific. Refer to any evidence or feedback you plan to upload. Do not include personal information about other people.

What are your top 3 priorities for a future free trade agreement or related trade talks with Thailand?

Select up to 3.

- Initial provisions and general definitions
- National treatment and market access for goods
- Rules of origin and origin procedures
- Textile and apparel goods
- Energy and raw materials

- Customs administration and trade facilitation
- Trade remedies
- Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Animal welfare
- Technical barriers to trade
- Investment
- Cross-border trade in services
- Financial services
- Temporary entry for business persons
- Telecommunications
- Electronic commerce
- Government procurement
- Competition policy
- State-owned enterprises and designated monopolies
- Intellectual property
- Labour
- Environment
- Cooperation and capacity building
- Competitiveness and business facilitation
- Trade and development
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Regulatory coherence
- Transparency and anti-corruption
- Administrative and institutional provisions
- Dispute settlement
- Exceptions and general provisions
- Final provisions
- Other, please specify
- None of these

- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Which priority is most important, and why?

Explain any challenges to trade or investment between the UK and Thailand and describe their impact. Do not include personal information about other people.

3. Upload evidence

Would you like to upload evidence or direct feedback on how the UK’s trade relationship with Thailand could be deepened?

Your submission could cover:

- practical regulatory, legal or administrative barriers to trade or investment
- priority opportunities where improved access would deliver the greatest benefit
- sectors with strong growth potential that could benefit from improved market access

You can upload up to 6 files. Each file can be no larger than 30 MB and must be a PDF, document or spreadsheet. Confirm each upload before leaving the page. Do not include personal information about other people.

- Yes
- No

Upload file 1

File name:

Upload file 2

File name:

Upload file 3

File name:

Upload file 4

File name:

Upload file 5

File name:

Upload file 6

File name:

4. About you or your organisation

Complete only the section that matches how you are responding.

4a. Individuals

Are you a member, supporter or donor of an organisation with an interest in international trade?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Has that organisation contacted you about UK trade talks or a possible UK-Thailand free trade agreement?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

What is the organisation's name?

Where do you currently live?

- London
- South East England
- South West England
- East of England
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- North West England
- North East England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- A UK Crown Dependency
- A UK Overseas Territory
- Another country
- Prefer not to say

If relevant, which Crown Dependency or UK Overseas Territory do you live in?

- Bailiwick of Jersey
- Bailiwick of Guernsey
- Isle of Man
- Anguilla
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn Islands
- St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Prefer not to say

What was your age at your last birthday?

- 16 to 17
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 or over
- Prefer not to say

What is your sex registered at birth?

A question about gender identity follows.

- Female
- Male
- Other, please state
- Prefer not to say

Is your gender identity the same as your sex registered at birth?

This question is voluntary.

- Yes
- No, please state your gender identity
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnicity?

- White or White British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
- Another ethnic group, please state
- Prefer not to say

4b. Non-governmental organisations

What is the name of the organisation you represent?

This information is mandatory, please see the privacy and confidentiality statement for reasons why this information is needed. Please do not include any personal information about other people in your response.

Which areas does your organisation represent?

Select all that apply.

- Education
- Health
- Labour or workers' rights
- Human rights
- Religious interests or groups
- International development
- Food and drink
- Environment and climate change
- Animals
- Farming
- Consumers
- Product regulation or safety
- Manufacturing
- Transport

- Science or technology
- Digital or technology
- Broadcasting or entertainment
- Financial or business services
- Defence or security
- Academic institution
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Describe the purpose and nature of your organisation

Where is your organisation primarily based?

- London
- South East England
- South West England
- East of England
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- North West England
- North East England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- A UK Crown Dependency
- A UK Overseas Territory
- Another country
- Prefer not to say

If relevant, which Crown Dependency or UK Overseas Territory is it based in?

- Bailiwick of Jersey
- Bailiwick of Guernsey
- Isle of Man

- Anguilla
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn Islands
- St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Prefer not to say

Does your organisation have a presence in, or operate in, Thailand or have regional offices in a nearby country?

- Thailand
- Another country, please specify
- Don’t know
- No
- Prefer not to say

How many members does your group represent?

- 0 to 9
- 10 to 100
- 101 to 250
- 251 to 5,000
- 5,001 to 10,000
- More than 10,000
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

4c. Public sector bodies

What is the name of the public sector body you represent?

This information is mandatory, please see the privacy and confidentiality statement for reasons why this information is needed.

Which areas does the body represent?

Select all that apply.

- Education
- Health
- Labour or workers' rights
- Human rights
- Religious interests or groups
- International development
- Food and drink
- Environment and climate change
- Animals
- Farming
- Consumers
- Product regulation or safety
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Science and technology
- Digital and technology
- Broadcasting or entertainment
- Financial or business services
- Defence or security
- Academic institution
- Other
- Prefer not to say
- Devolved administration or UK local government
- National government outside the UK

- Regional or local government outside the UK

Does the body have a presence in, or operate in, Thailand?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Have any members contacted the body about trade or investment with Thailand?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

4d. Businesses

What is the name of your business?

This information is mandatory, please see the privacy and confidentiality statement for reasons why this information is needed. Please do not include any personal information about other people in your response.

Which sectors does your business operate in?

Select all that apply.

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Other agriculture
- Conventional energy production and distribution
- Renewable energy production and distribution
- Mining and extraction
- Other energy and mining
- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Chemicals
- Clothing and textiles
- Food, beverages and tobacco
- Information and communications technology and electronics
- Machinery and equipment

- Metal products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical technology
- Wood, paper and printing
- Other manufacturing
- Asset management
- Banking
- Insurance
- Market infrastructure
- Other financial services
- Construction services
- Architecture
- Audit or accountancy
- Legal services
- Real estate
- Other business services
- Broadcasting
- Creative industries
- Digital and information technology
- Telecommunications
- Other broadcasting, creative and digital sectors
- Air transport
- Storage and distribution
- Water transport
- Other transport
- Education
- Health and social care
- Other public services
- Hotels and restaurants

- Retail
- Other retail and hospitality
- Other
- Prefer not to say

What is your Companies House company number?

If you are content to enter this number, there is potential scope to link your information to our records management to enable relevant government officials to be aware of matters raised in this questionnaire.

- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say
- The business does not have a UK company number

Is your business based in the UK?

- In the UK
- Outside the UK
- Prefer not to say

If it is in the UK, where is it based?

- London
- South East England
- South West England
- East of England
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- North West England
- North East England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- A UK Crown Dependency
- A UK Overseas Territory
- Another country
- Prefer not to say

If relevant, which Crown Dependency or UK Overseas Territory is it based in?

- Bailiwick of Jersey
- Bailiwick of Guernsey
- Isle of Man
- Anguilla
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn Islands
- St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Prefer not to say

If it is outside the UK, which country is it based in?

- Thailand
- Another country (for example, a regional office), please specify
- Prefer not to say

Is your business a subsidiary of a company headquartered outside the UK?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Where is the parent company headquartered?

Country:

Approximately how many employees are on the business payroll in your country?

- 0, self-employed with no employees
- 1 to 9
- 10 to 49
- 50 to 99
- 100 to 249

- 250 to 499
- 500 to 4,999
- More than 5,000
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Does your business currently employ people in Thailand?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Do you consider your business to be women-owned or women-led?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

4e. Business and trade associations

What is the name of the association or representative organisation?

This information is mandatory, please see the privacy and confidentiality statement for reasons why this information is needed. Please do not include any personal information about other people in your response.

Which business areas does it represent?

Select all that apply.

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Other agriculture
- Conventional energy production and distribution
- Renewable energy production and distribution
- Mining and extraction
- Other energy and mining
- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Chemicals
- Clothing and textiles

- Food, beverages and tobacco
- Information and communications technology and electronics
- Machinery and equipment
- Metal products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical technology
- Wood, paper and printing
- Other manufacturing
- Asset management
- Banking
- Insurance
- Market infrastructure
- Other financial services
- Construction services
- Architecture
- Audit or accountancy
- Legal services
- Real estate
- Other business services
- Broadcasting
- Creative industries
- Digital and information technology
- Telecommunications
- Other broadcasting, creative and digital sectors
- Air transport
- Storage and distribution
- Water transport
- Other transport
- Education

- Health and social care
- Other public services
- Hotels and restaurants
- Retail
- Other retail and hospitality
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Is the organisation based in the UK?

- In the UK
- Outside the UK
- Prefer not to say

If it is in the UK, where is it based?

- London
- South East England
- South West England
- East of England
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- North West England
- North East England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- A UK Crown Dependency
- A UK Overseas Territory
- Another country
- Prefer not to say

If relevant, which Crown Dependency or UK Overseas Territory is it based in?

- Bailiwick of Jersey
- Bailiwick of Guernsey
- Isle of Man

- Anguilla
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn Islands
- St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Prefer not to say

If it is outside the UK, which country is it based in?

- Thailand
- Another country, please specify
- Prefer not to say

How many members or businesses does the group represent?

- 0 to 10
- 11 to 100
- 101 to 250
- 251 to 1,000
- 1,001 to 5,000
- 5,001 to 10,000
- More than 10,000
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Does the organisation have a presence in, or operate in, Thailand?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Have any members contacted the organisation about trade or investment with Thailand?

- Yes

- No
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

BIST is an economic growth department. We support fair, competitive markets at home, secure access to markets abroad and help businesses to invest, export and grow.

Legal disclaimer

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Published by

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

24 November 2026