

Port Health Unit – Councillor Dudgeon

This Committee agrees in the light of the particular Brexit-impacted functions performed by council staff in our Port Health Unit to an urgent review of its role after March 2019.

The Port Health Unit at Belfast Harbour Estate is currently approved to act on behalf of the EU as a Designated Point of Entry. It also currently controls high-risk products of non-animal origin imported from outside the EU and is approved as a Border Inspection Post for the examination, sampling and clearance of third country imports of products of animal origin.

Given the changes after Brexit when the Unit may have to inspect direct imports from all the current EU states, as well as non-EU countries, the proposed review of its role and options will need to involve forward planning for various outcomes.