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Statement on UK REACH

Based on our commitment to having control of our own laws, the UK will establish its own independent chemicals regulatory framework, UK REACH, from 1 January 2021. In doing so we are committed to maintaining the strong environment and health protections that we have today, and this means ensuring that registrations of chemicals in the UK are underpinned by the same information and evidence as they are today.

We said we would keep the transitional provisions under review and have worked closely with a broad range of stakeholders in doing so. We have listened to concerns raised by them about the current timelines for supplying data to the UK regulator. I am therefore announcing today that we intend to extend the existing registration deadlines set in legislation (subject to parliamentary and devolved administration scrutiny). This will allow industry more time to reach agreement with commercial partners to access the chemical substance registration data that they need and therefore reduce the risks of disruption to supply chains.

We continue to pursue a negotiated deal on data sharing with the EU which would mitigate the need for industry to provide full data packages for existing registrations and offer benefits to both UK and EU businesses. Irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, chemicals manufacturers and importers would still need to provide UK authorities the same information required in the 120-day and 300-day deadlines. Therefore, I would urge businesses to continue their preparations so they will be ready for 1 January 2021.

To help them do this we have published guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-comply-with-reach-chemical-regulations>. We will keep this guidance under review and update it to take account of further developments.

REBECCA POW MP

