

EU Laws Part Two – Which ones still govern us, 7 YEARS after we voted to leave?

In Part One of this report on EU laws we explained why this matters

In this, Part Two, we look at the areas of our lives these laws affect

With the Government rowing back fast on their commitment to repeal EU laws which still govern us seven years after we voted to leave the bloc, today we analyse the laws which the Civil Service has managed to identify so far.

Still ruled by EU laws – summary

[Part One : What is “Retained EU law” and why does it matter to us all?](#)

Part Two : Just how many EU laws do we still have and what are they? (This report)

Part Three : We don't believe the official figures are accurate or meaningful – and here's why

Part Four : The Government's Remainer retreat and what MPs think of this

As we reported in Part One of this four-part series on retained EU laws, there is still no definitive list of EU laws

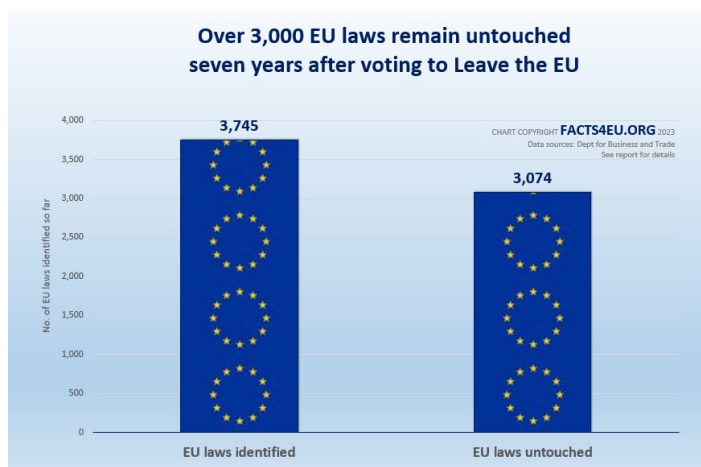
which continue to govern the United Kingdom, seven years after voting to leave the European Union. **The Civil Service is unable to provide this information.**

CIBUK and Brexit Facts4EU.Org has analysed what official data is available so far and summarises this below.

Summary

EU laws still governing us, seven years after voting to leave the EU

The Civil Service's latest best estimates



- EU laws identified : 3,745
- EU laws untouched : 3,074 (82%)
- Amended : 347 (9.3%) – either by the UK or EU
- Repealed : 292 (7.8%) – either by the UK or EU
- Replaced : 31 (0.8%)

[Source: Department for Business & Trade, 30 Jan 2023.]

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“Taking Back Control” has barely started in the Remainer Civil Service

Over 3,000 EU laws have so far not been touched – and this number is likely to be far higher once the Civil Service eventually gives an accurate figure. After nine months of work they produced one figure in June 2022 which they then had to revise upwards some months later.

It had been understated by more than 36%.

The EU laws still controlling the voting public and the UK's businesses

Our study of the Civil Service's list of EU laws still on the statute book which affect the voting public and British businesses gives some indication of the extensiveness of EU laws. These include the following areas :-

- Recognition of professional qualifications
- Competition rules for transport by rail, road and inland waterway
- A wide variety of foodstuff regulations
- Animal feeding regulations
- Regulations for scientific testing laboratories
- Smoked food regulations
- Regulations about ceramics
- Charges for fish landings
- Prevention of the import of certain medicines from outside the EU
- 'Environmental Impact Assessments'
- Regulations about how to hold elections
- A variety of building work regulations
- A raft of discrimination rules

- Maternity pay for EU nationals
- Social security benefits for EU nationals who are not present in the UK
- Many, many 'health and safety' regulations
- A large number of regulations about oil and gas
- Horse rugs (Yes, really)
- Chemical regulations ad infinitum
- A vast number of laws on financial services – banking, insurance, etc
- And the list goes on

This list only gives some examples and is certainly not exhaustive.

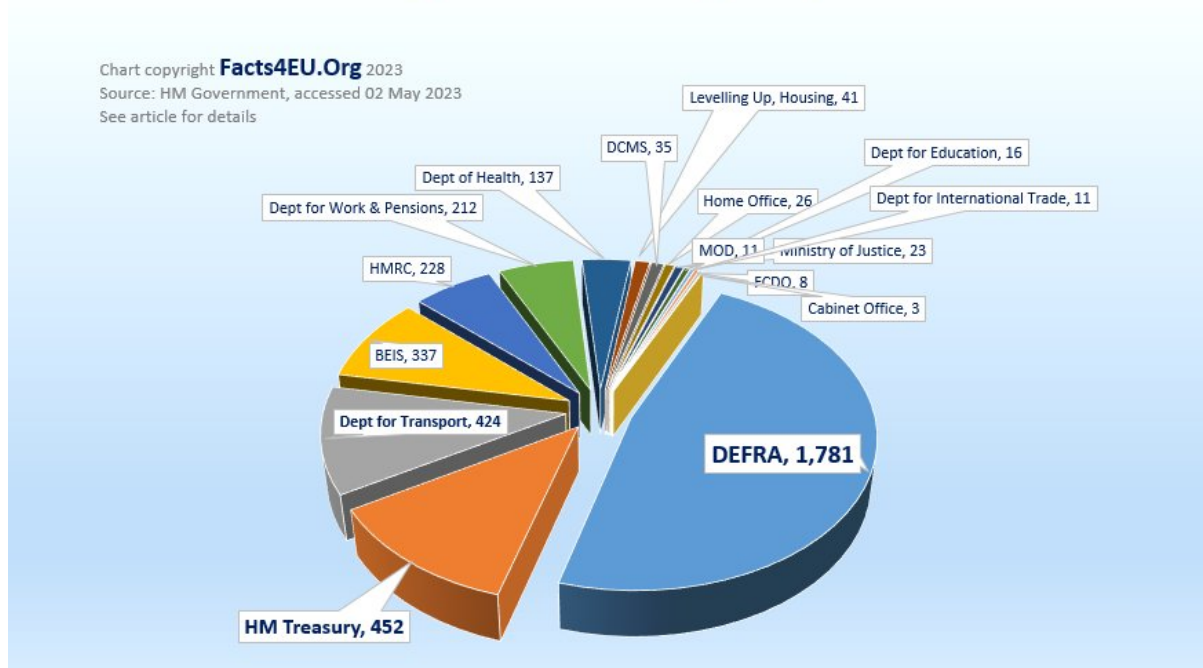
Government departments are supposed to update the list

When it comes to specific government departments affected, there are major differences. By far the largest number of retained EU laws come under DEFRA, which reflects the EU's obsession with agriculture instead of trade over many years. These laws account for almost half (47.6%) of the total of EU laws so far identified. Below is the breakdown.

Summary

[Source: UK Government Reporting – Retained EU laws by Dept.]

EU laws by government dept responsible



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The official Government statement on getting to grips with the number of EU laws on the UK statute book admits, de facto, the failure of government departments to identify EU laws which continue to govern our lives. It says :-

*“Creating and continuing to develop this comprehensive record of EU-derived legislation will enable Government to accelerate regulatory reform and reclaim the UK statute book. Going forward, the government will continue to update this catalogue on a quarterly basis **as government departments work to identify where more legislation can be amended, repealed or replaced.**”*

The last update was on 30 January 2023. The next update was **due on 30 April but still hasn't appeared** at the time of writing (4.00am, 02 May 2023).



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Observations

The Civil Service has had almost seven years to deal with the consequences of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, following the largest democratic vote in UK history. It is clear they hoped the antics of the anti-democratic MPs and Peers in Westminster would succeed in overturning the decision of the British people.

What is even more troubling is that following the landslide election of a pro-Brexit government in 2019, they have dragged their feet in doing the required work to prepare for jettisoning EU laws in readiness for new UK laws which suit the British people and British businesses.

In Part Three of this series we will reveal just how much more extensive was the reach of the EU into our statute book than the above figures indicate. Not to be missed!

Then in Part Four we hope to obtain the views of senior MPs and former Ministers on this disgrace. This is particularly relevant given that the Government is now going to abandon important provisions in its REUL Bill and allow the vast majority of EU laws still to apply in Brexit Britain.

CIBUK thanks its Affiliated Organisation, Brexit Facts4EU.Org for their research and permission to republish this article.

The Brexit Facts4EU.Org article can be found [here](#).

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