Q&A with Slido

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Darren Abrahams

Partner, *Avocat & Barrister*

London & Brussels

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Darren enables clients to get and keep their products on the **EU and UK markets** and provides a “one stop shop” suite of cutting-edge services to do so. His focus is on challenges with **chemicals, the environment, food, products & sustainability**. He provides a global clientele (companies, consortia and trade associations - at all stages of the supply chain) with strategic advice, advocacy, and litigation before courts and tribunals.

Chambers & Partners Europe-wide Regulatory (2020) recognizes his environment and Agro/Food practice, quoting clients’ praise: “*exceptional expertise on…regulations on chemicals…and a great ability to understand the complexity of business*.” On Environmental law it reports: “*When it comes to things like REACH and chemicals law, he is the best*” and “*provides the complete package of client attention and partnership*” (2023). “*He is truly fantastic to work with even when the odds are not in our favour*” and “*has the rare quality of giving you honest and accurate legal advice, particularly on your chances of success*” (2025). Clients describe Darren as "*a super lawyer*“, “*love working with*" him, and say that he has "*integrity*" and is "*an excellent litigator*". They view him as "*the main expert on chemical law in the EU and UK…able to interpret scientific data and regulatory nuances*" (2026).

Legal 500 Europe cites clients’ appreciation of Darren’s ability to “*explain complex subject matter in a really understandable manner*” and give “*honest and accurate legal advice, particularly on your chances of success*”, adding that “*he is truly fantastic to work with*”(2025). He provides “*clear, precise and quick interpretation of legal questions...trustworthy guidance and recommendations*” (2026).

INTRODUCTION

DIANE KELLY



Regulatory Operations Manager - REACH

- Ph.D. in organic chemistry
- 25 years' experience at Reckitt in R&D, Quality and Global Regulatory
- Worked in some way on all of the brands in the photo
- Responsible for REACH Oversight





Rebecca Leete

Head of UK REACH policy and service

Defra

- Defra leads UK REACH policy
- We also lead regimes implementing international conventions (POPs and mercury) and wider chemicals policy, including in relation to PFAS
- Our goal is to **minimise environmental and health risks from chemicals and pesticides**
- And to support economic growth by reducing business complexity and trade barriers

Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

UK REACH update

ChemUK, 20 May 2026

Rebecca Leete

Head of UK REACH policy and service

Alternative Transitional Registration model



Industry shows it understands the hazards and risks of the chemicals it brings onto GB market and how to manage these safely



Public and consumers gain assurance that chemicals are used safely in GB

Government response to consultation published 30 March 2026

ATRm at a glance

Hazard information	Registrants will submit hazard conclusions. Regulator can ask for more information – transitional evaluation.
Use and exposure information	As existing UK REACH regulations – no increase
CSA/CSR	CSR will report key hazard data: determines if registrant completes exposure and risk parts of CSA
Substance groups	Help business with agreement of hazard conclusions and data sharing

ATRm: next steps

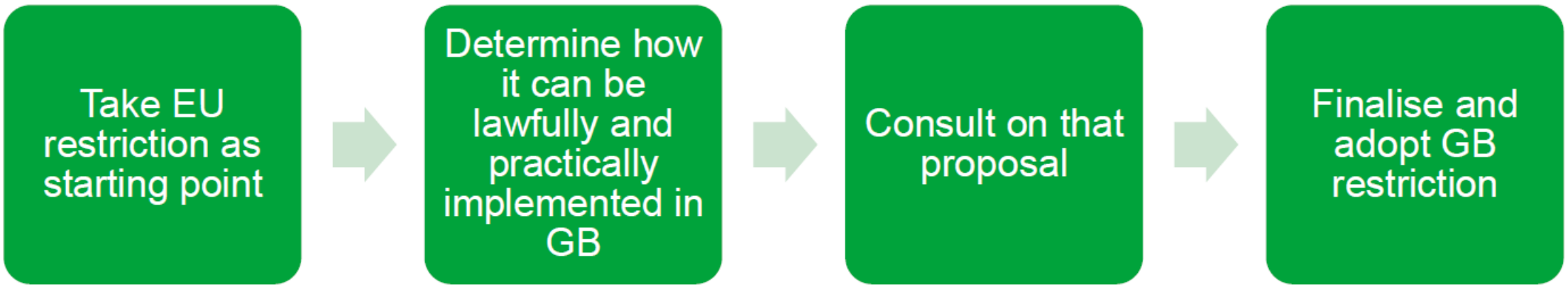
- Legislation to change deadlines laid in Parliament 24 March 2026 and expected to become law this summer
- New deadlines:

Current deadline	New deadline
October 2026	October 2029
October 2028	October 2030
October 2030	October 2031

- Technical consultation on ATRm regulation in 2026
- Produce guidance for users

UK REACH restrictions: emerging thinking

EIP commitment 40: Reform REACH to address chemical pollution more quickly, efficiently and more in line with trading partners, especially the EU, by December 2028.



- Shorter than current restriction process
- Only diverge from an EU restriction in **exceptional circumstances**

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