



# **CUSTOMS CLEARANCE**

C O N S O R T I U M

## WHO ARE THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE CONSORTIUM?



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**“We have informed the EU today that we will not extend the Transition Period. The moment for extension has now passed.....there is still work to be done to ensure we are ready to seize the opportunities of being fully independent....”**

Michael Gove - Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster – June 2020



## **GET READY FOR PAPERWORK**

Brexit will generate an additional 200+ million customs declarations per annum. Expertise is in short supply and customs agency capacity is not ready for a five-fold increase in the volume of transactions.

Recent Government reports highlighted a shortage of customs broker capacity in the region of 50,000 staff required. We dispute this figure as it does not consider the potential of automation and slick processes. However, the fact remains that there are not enough brokers for day one. Uncertainty has stifled investment in the sector. Had a broker ‘staffed-up’ for the various threats of day one they could easily be £ ½ million in the red by now. A new, modern, forward thinking approach is required.

We identified this issue early in the process and set about finding a solution. Customs introduced a number of easements (most notably TSP) to empower the trader on the basis that ‘nothing moves unless you order it’. However, this missed the point and took much of the solution solving potential away from the logistics operators. We took a different approach : ‘nothing moves unless you move it!’

We encouraged logistics providers to own the problem by giving up their search for a customs partner and instead allowing them to create their own brokerage. The Customs Clearance Consortium (CCC) was born.

CCC is operated by Oakland Invicta Limited which is owned by Oakland International Limited and Robert Hardy. Oakland International are long life chilled consolidators for UK retail and rely on more than 50% of their volume coming from Europe (for eventual delivery to UK stores). Oakland are not spectators in the Brexit process and equally needed to find a solution.



The Oakland International corporate video can be viewed here : <https://youtu.be/iwqHLmijQJw>

Robert Hardy is a veteran of the customs intermediary sector. Having grown up in Dover (in the 70's and 80's) it was normal to become a customs agent. There were more than 200 agencies at that time and Robert soon progressed to running one of the largest ones, whilst still in his late twenties.

EU borders came down in 1993 and Robert sought his fame and fortune elsewhere. He became Freight Director of P&O Ferries and Commercial Director of EurotunnelPlus Freight. In 2012 he returned to Dover to take over the running of the customs freight terminal in the port, which he ran until 2017 (doubling the revenue, doubling the staff and modernising many of the processes)

Having worked closely with HMRC and Border Force it was a natural progression to become involved in Brexit planning. Robert has been called to give expert evidence at both the House of Commons International House of Lords Select Committees and has worked with a number of MP's and Parliamentary Secretaries in respect of Brexit and border strategy.

Robert is a registered expert with the EU Commission on matters relating to International Trade and a key member of the UK cross governmental policy groups including, Border Delivery, Logistics Steering, NI Protocol and Future Borders Group.

During this time, the Consortium has gone from strength to strength. Members of the consortium include some of the largest logistics operators in Europe and clients include some of the largest house-hold brands in the market today. A small selection is shown below...



CCC is preparing to handle in excess of 2 million declarations per annum as well as TRACES NT, IPAFFS, GVMS and other port related systems. Based in Nottinghamshire and linked to all major UK and EU clearance facilities, CCC is able to look after customs and border formalities no matter where your journey starts or ends.

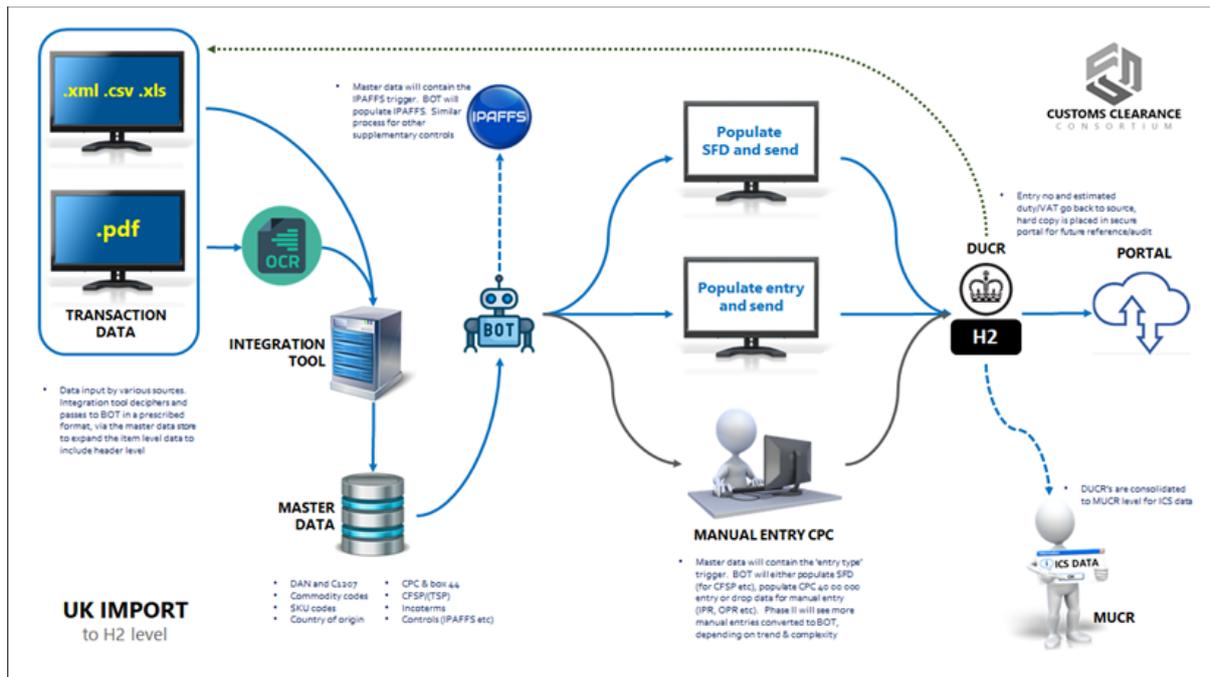
CCC have invested heavily in RPA automation and AI machine learning. EU freight flows tend to be metronomic and are well suited to repetitive process automation. This enable CCC to not only handle high volumes of transactions but also to do this quickly, efficiently and economically.

(Last week we tested a 1,001 sku load and completed the entire customs process in 3 minutes!)



## AUTOMATION AND INTEGRATION

CCC is working closely with clients to capture the master data elements so that customs entries can be processed quickly when the time comes. This data capture is an important step and CCC have created an online tools for the purpose : [www.mybrenxit.uk/data](http://www.mybrenxit.uk/data)



Once the master data files are created the automation can be used fully. Data comes in to CCC in various formats, is translated, passes through the master data filter and the entry software is populated. Staff will only deal with CHIEF queries and non-standard entries, which will both either diminish or also become automated over time.

CCC clients have a number of ways to submit entry information, each of which will have a robot ready and waiting at the CCC end...

- 1 **PORTAL** – manually input the data by answering a series of questions
- 2 **SLICK** – quick entry for standard entries (CCC VIP only)
- 3 **CDI** – Customs Data Interchange : transfer data by xml, csv, xls or pdf (as graphic)

CCC have already created (and tested) data transfer tools which can be found at :

[https://www.mybrenxit.uk/Customs\\_Entry](https://www.mybrenxit.uk/Customs_Entry)



## **....AND HUMANS TOO !**

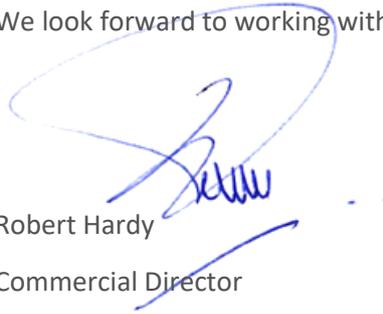
CCC are currently recruiting 50 additional staff to support a full 24 hour 7 day week shift pattern. We recognise that trucks move at night and staffing levels are being set accordingly. The CCC model has also attracted some of the best talent in the market today. The CCC concept is exciting and ground-breaking and we are not surprised that modern brokers want to be part of the process, in fact we encourage it.

All key staff are trained to at least level IV of UK Customs Academy and this is supported by our own in-house border training. CCC are approved fully funded trainers supporting HMRC in Brexit readiness.

We would encourage you to visit the website at [www.mybrexit.uk](http://www.mybrexit.uk) and pay particular attention to the downloads section where we have loaded a number of white-papers and information sheets to help traders and logistics operators prepare for the challenges ahead and be aware of the pitfalls. The website is updated weekly and includes instructional videos and interactive tools.

CCC aim to be the largest independent broker in the UK and we intend to do this by maximising the skills we have acquired over the years. Brexit is a fantastic opportunity to create something new and exciting and we are seizing this opportunity with both hands.

We look forward to working with you..



Robert Hardy

Commercial Director