

The Brexiteers have sold out the UK

Published: January 14, 2026, 7:33 am

The hypocrisy of the Brexiteers in government is revealed in [the new agreement](#) to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

We are not, of course, a trans-Pacific nation. Unsurprisingly as a result we get a 0.08% gain in UK GDP from this deal. That is one fiftieth of what we lost from Brexit. There are no measurable upsides of consequence then.

But we accept lowered standards on food as a result. Hormone treated meat may be permitted.

We also reduce environmental protections, especially on palm oil, which the deal favours despite the serious harm it causes.

And we drop the precautionary principle on issues where we have traditionally said things are not permitted until they can be shown to be beneficial. The CPTPP way is for anything to be permitted until it is shown to cause harm.

Perhaps worst of all, we submit ourselves to secret courts that let companies sue our government for having such things as environmental protections and labour standards that those companies can claim cause them a loss of profits, meaning they can demand compensation. And all that will happen in courts that we cannot challenge, which was the great Brexit paranoia.

Unless Brexit was really only about racism after all, of course.

And there has, very oddly, been no referendum or even parliamentary debate on this. It was just signed using executive powers.

Taking back control? I don't think so. Handing it over to big business at cost to us all, more like.

This is a grim deal for which there can be no justification. At least, not if you care about the UK, its people and justice, that is. But the Tories don't.