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JOHNSON'S PLAN TO BREAK BREXIT AGREEMENT TRIGGERS ANGRY EU BACKLASH

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Boris Johnsons government put itself on a collision course with the EU on Wednesday (9 September) after publishing a bill that would breach key parts of its Withdrawal Agreement with the bloc.

The Internal Market Bill, designed to govern trade within the UKs four nations, states that there will be no new checks on goods moving from Northern Ireland to the rest of Great Britain. It also gives UK ministers powers to modify or disapply rules relating to the movement of goods that will come into force from 1 January, when the UK leaves the EUs single market, if a successor trade agreement is not reached.

Both provisions run counter to the Irish Protocol which guarantees that customs checks at the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic do not return. By using the words notwithstanding on several occasions, the bill would set aside previously agreed law.

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