



Department for International Trade

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Angus,

Future Free Trade Agreement between the UK and the United States of America

The UK is now an independent trading nation. We believe removing barriers to trade will deliver prosperity for the UK and that is why we will use our voice to champion free trade and lower barriers at every opportunity. Fewer barriers mean more opportunities for business, more investment, better jobs, higher wages, more choice and lower prices.

Today the government is publishing the following documents relating to a potential future free trade agreement between the UK and the US:

- **the Government's negotiating objectives;**
- **the Government response to the public consultation on trade negotiations with the US and;**
- **a Scoping Assessment to provide Parliament and the public with a preliminary assessment of the potential long run economic impacts of an FTA between the UK and the US**

Analysis in the Scoping Assessment published today shows a UK-US FTA could have a positive impact on every UK nation and region. There are significant opportunities throughout the economy, from agriculture to professional services.

UK-US total trade was valued at £220.9 billion in the last year, including 19.8% of all our exports. My department's analysis shows a UK-US FTA could increase trade between both countries by £15.3 billion annually in the long run in comparison to 2018, and increase UK workers' wages by £1.8 billion annually.

In our US FTA we will seek a dedicated SME chapter and SME-friendly provisions throughout – on everything from customs and trade facilitation, services sectors and business mobility to telecommunications, digital trade and intellectual property – knocking down trade barriers that will benefit the 30,000 SMEs in every part of the UK already exporting to the US.

In an increasingly protectionist world, with the imposition of new tariff and non-tariff barriers, striking free trade agreements will give industry the certainty and security it needs to prosper.

All our new trade deals will be specifically tailored to the shape of our country's economy, so they can deliver the greater opportunities and higher standard of living every part of the UK wants.

Our team will drive a hard bargain for all British industries and people. We are committed to reaffirming our protections for the NHS, the price it pays for drugs and its services are not for sale. There will be no compromise on high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.

As I said when I appeared before your Committee on 16 October 2019, I believe your Committee has a very important scrutiny role. If you would like to discuss our approach to the US FTA further, I would be happy to appear before your Committee and look forward to developing our relationship further as negotiations progress. In the meantime, I will be holding briefing meetings for all MPs to which you will have received an invitation.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the House of Lords European Union Select Committee.

Best wishes,



THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade