



Department for  
International Trade



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith QC  
Chairman  
International Agreements Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

18 May 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith QC,

### **Update on negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with the US**

I am writing to inform you that I will be making a Written Ministerial Statement today to update Parliament on the first round of negotiations towards a UK-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This marks the next step in my commitment to keep you and your committee updated on trade negotiations, following publication of our objectives and initial economic assessment on 2 March and my letter to you at the launch of negotiations two weeks ago.

From 5-15 May the UK and US conducted the first round of FTA negotiations. This was a full discussion covering all aspects of negotiations towards an FTA including creating opportunities for SMEs, services, telecoms and customs arrangements.

On the basis of these initial discussions both we and the US are confident that negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement can proceed at pace. We expect the second round of talks to take place in June and for those discussions to include all chapters.

An FTA with the US can help create opportunities for UK businesses, provide better jobs and boost the economy in every part of the country. I am therefore pleased with the progress that has been made and keen to ensure that momentum is maintained to ensure that businesses and consumers in every part of the UK can start to benefit from a UK-US FTA as soon as possible.

The Government remains fully committed to transparency and will ensure that parliamentarians, UK citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations. I would be happy to brief your committee on outcomes from the first round of US-UK negotiations, if you feel this would be useful.

I will be holding a briefing meeting for Peers this week. You will receive a separate invite and I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Site". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt**  
Minister of State for Investment  
Department for International Trade