



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee –
International Agreements Sub-Committee

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Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
Minister for Investment
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
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18 May 2020

UK-Japan FTA: the UK's strategic approach, and UK-US negotiations

Dear Lord Grimstone,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May regarding the Department for International Trade's publication of the policy paper outlining the UK's strategic approach to negotiation a free trade agreement with Japan, and for your subsequent letter of 18 May about progress in the first round of negotiations with the US. It is very helpful to receive these notices from you marking the progress DIT is making, and I would be grateful if they could continue.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for the open and constructive meeting last week, with me and Lord Kinnoull, on continuing discussions about the ways in which Parliament and DIT can work together collaboratively regarding trade negotiations. I understand that our officials, along with their colleagues working for the Commons International Trade Committee, will be meeting soon to discuss these issues, and I hope that we might make good progress rapidly, in line with the conclusions and recommendations made previously by the EU Select Committee and the emerging conclusions of our current Working Practices inquiry.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the EU Select Committee; Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the Commons International Trade Committee; Joanna Welham, Clerk to the Commons International Trade Committee; and Edwina Osborne, Department for International Trade.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Sub-Committee