



Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
Minister for Investment
Department for International Trade

7 July 2020

Dear Lord Grimstone,

Thank you again for appearing before the International Relations and Defence Committee (IRDC) on 1 July. As you will be aware, the IRDC scrutinises work by a number of departments, including the Department for International Trade (DIT), and we look forward to continuing to interact with you and your ministerial colleagues in this regard. Following on from the meeting, we would like to request some further information from the DIT.

First, we would welcome information on the Government's new inward investment strategy, and when this will be completed.

Second, we would welcome further information on the indicators that you use to measure the success of the department's work to increase inward investment into the UK.

Third, we discussed trade preferences for Israel, as raised in our exchange of letters with James Cleverly MP, Minister for the Middle East, on 12 May and 3 June 2020.¹ This relates to the implications for UK preferential imports from Israel in the event of Israel annexing further areas of the territories it occupied following the war of June 1967, including the Jordan Valley, as set out in the national unity coalition agreement.

We welcome the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa's statement that any unilateral moves to annex parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to efforts to restart peace negotiations and contrary to international law, which you reiterated during the meeting. What work has the DIT undertaken to consider the implications on the implementation by the UK of the *UK-Israel trade and partnership agreement*, and to develop a specific plan of action for this scenario? How in those circumstances will the UK Government be able to identify imports from what Israel would then claim to be part of Israel? Has the Government communicated to the government of Israel the implications of this planned annexation for the trade relationship?

Fourth, we would welcome information on what impact UK sanctions are having on continuing Russian-UK Government commercial business projects and research projects.

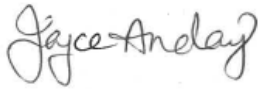
Fifth, could you please set out the process by which the Government assesses the national security implications of potential investments in the UK?

Sixth, we would welcome further elucidation on your views on the UK's dependency on Chinese telecommunications companies and the implications for supply chain transparency and national security.

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/1061/documents/8850/default/>
<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/1388/documents/12769/default/>

Finally, you committed to ensure that the Committee is updated once the planned review of trade envoys, as referred to by the Secretary of State for International Trade in her letter of 29 May 2020, has been completed.² We reiterate the need for: a transparent process for appointing trade envoys; clear lines of accountability, including to Parliament; clarification regarding the relationship between a trade envoy and the resident ambassador or high commissioner; a methodology for measuring trade envoys' work and its impact; the establishment of a review process to consider the re-appointment of trade envoys; and we again pose the question as to whether party balance is considered in the appointment process.

Yours, as ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jayce Anelay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Baroness Anelay of St Johns
Chair, International Relations and Defence Committee

² <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/1387/documents/12766/default/>