



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Minister for Europe

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

The Earl of Kinnoull  
Chair of the EU Select Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

*Dear Lord Kinnoull,*

Thank you to your Committee and officials for the considered 'Scrutiny of international agreements: Treaties considered on 7 October 2019' report. I wanted to write and offer a response to points raised concerning the United Kingdom-Central America Association Agreement.

### **Amendments**

We appreciate your feedback on how we provide information on future amendments to agreements. The report mentioned the recommendation made in your Committee's 'Scrutiny of International Agreements: Lessons Learned' report, to which the government has responded. However, the Government is considering options to ensure that there is appropriate Ministerial accountability to Parliament.

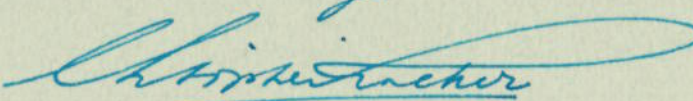
### **Geographical Extent**

We welcome the report's recognition that the Government provided detailed information on the geographical extent of agreements. We intend to continue to do so for all future trade and association continuity agreements.

### **Consultation with the Devolved Administrations**

On the point your committee raised on consultations, I can assure you that we are sharing all texts of agreements with the Devolved Administrations prior to signature. This information was omitted from the Explanatory Memorandum in error, but will be clarified in all future Explanatory Memoranda.

The Government values scrutiny of the trade continuity programme and welcomes your Committee's report. I look forward to your subsequent reports on our trade continuity agreements. I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Commons Library.

*Yours Sincerely,*  


**RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP**