



# International Trade Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB  
Tel 020 7219 1318 Email [tradecom@parliament.uk](mailto:tradecom@parliament.uk)

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan  
Secretary of State for International Trade  
Department for International Trade  
Old Admiralty Building  
Admiralty Place  
London  
SW1A 2BL

14 April 2022

Dear Anne-Marie,

Thank you for your letter of 13 April, and for sharing the TAC advice with the Committee ahead of its publication.<sup>1</sup>

As you will be aware, I have now written to you on many occasions to request sufficient time between the publication of the section 42 report and the beginning of the CRaG ratification period for my Committee to do its scrutiny.

Despite your assertion in your letter that the statutory section 42 report is part of the CRaG process, my Committee nevertheless considers this to be crucial to its inquiry into the UK-Australia FTA. As I'm sure you can appreciate, my Committee takes a keen interest in the extent to which the trade agreements signed by the Government are consistent with the UK's current statutory protection in relation to human, animal or plant life or health, animal welfare and environmental protection. We also maintain this position in terms of the UK-New Zealand FTA.

You have said, on many occasions, that you are committed to scrutiny of this agreement and that you will give enough time for the Committee to produce its report before the CRaG ratification process begins. In order for us to produce our report before CRaG is triggered, we need to be able to consider the section 42 report, and to be able to take evidence on it from you once it is published. After this, we will be able to finalise our report. To be clear – and as I said in my letters of 21 January and 31 March – we will need a minimum of 15 sitting days between the publication of your section 42 report and the beginning of the CRaG period in order to do this.

We have asked you repeatedly to make good on your promise to give the Committee the time it needs to scrutinise and report on the UK-Australia FTA, but you have not yet done so. Therefore, I am writing to again request that you allow at least fifteen sitting days between the publication of your section 42 report and the beginning of the CRaG period.

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<sup>1</sup> [Correspondence from the Chair to the Secretary of State regarding FTA scrutiny, dated 23 March 2022](#)

I also note that, in your letter of 13 April, you do not commit to seeing my Committee on 28 April as I requested in my letter. Instead, you only suggest arranging a time after our meeting next week. As outlined above, in order to complete our inquiry, it is essential that we take evidence from you on the UK-Australia FTA and finalise our report before the CRaG process begins. A loose offer to discuss dates in the new Session is not good enough.

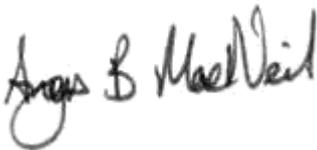
Please can you give me your assurances, in writing, that we will have at least 15 days between the publication of the section 42 report and the beginning of CRaG, by 2pm on Tuesday 19 April.

In your letter, please can you also confirm that you will be able to give evidence to my Committee between 10 am and 12pm on Thursday 28 April.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the International Agreements Committee, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. I am additionally copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House, and the Chair of the Liaison Committee.

In accordance with our usual practice, this letter, along with any replies, will be published on the Committee's webpage.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus B MacNeil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Angus Brendan MacNeil  
Chair of the International Trade Committee