



Department for International Trade

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
London
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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair, International Trade Committee,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

27 April 2022

Dear Angus,

Thank you for chairing the International Trade Committee's discussion this morning. During the discussion, you mentioned that DIT had previously promised to follow up in writing to you with a timeline and further details on TRA reform, as stated in a letter sent by my predecessor last year. I am now writing to provide an update on the proposed reforms to the trade remedies framework.

Since the steel safeguard case last summer, and subsequent launch of a review of the trade remedies framework in summer 2021, DIT officials have developed a package of proposals aimed at:

- Retaining the TRA's independent investigatory function, but strengthening Ministers' role by providing greater decision-making power;
- Providing a greater degree of flexibility for Ministers; and
- Improving the awareness of the TRA within industry and ensuring more effective engagement during investigations.

Together, this package of measures will ensure Ministers are much better informed throughout investigations, have greater discretion to take decisions and are responsible for all decisions on whether to impose trade remedies.

It should also in time improve the engagement between the TRA and UK industry – which should mean the TRA has greater meaningful engagement with industry and access to better evidence of whether injury is being caused.

The reforms will ensure the framework is up-to-date, champions WTO rules and is fit for purpose in the post-COVID world. It is crucial we have the tools in the future to ensure UK industries and consumers are defended against unfair competition and unforeseen surges in imports.

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) is a key part of the new policy framework to defend UK industry and will remain an independent body. It was set-up with the authority to

investigate unfair trading practices and provide objective, unbiased, expert advice to Ministers.

With regards to timings, we expect legislation containing these measures to be introduced to Parliament later this year, with the intention that the measures will come into effect upon Royal Assent.

I hope this update has been helpful and I will be in touch further with more details once the measures are finalised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Marie Trevelyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade