



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith QC
Chairman
International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

29 June 2020

Dear Peter,

Trade talks between the United Kingdom and Australia; and the United Kingdom and New Zealand – launch of negotiations

Further to the Ministerial Statements I made on 17 June 2020, I am pleased to inform you that today we will open our first round of trade negotiations with Australia which will run over two weeks. We will begin the first round of trade negotiations with New Zealand on 13 July 2020 which will also run over two weeks.

Talks will initially be carried out remotely, and in the first round both teams of negotiators will explore respective negotiating objectives and agree a structure and work plan for the coming negotiating rounds.

Trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand could increase UK exports to Australia and New Zealand by around £1 billion and beverages firms, the automotive industry and professional services are among those expected to benefit.

Our negotiation team is ready to deliver for the UK and we have been clear that any future agreements with Australia and New Zealand must work for UK consumers, producers and companies.

The Government is committed to transparency and will ensure that parliamentarians, UK citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations. I will provide further updates to Parliament as negotiations with Australia and New Zealand progress.

I look forward to working with your committee as it plays a significant role in the scrutiny of our free trade agreements, as part of the UK's independent trade policy.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grimstone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long tail.

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