



International Trade Committee

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Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
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5 May 2022

Dear Anne-Marie,

In your appearance before the International Trade Committee on 27 April I raised the Committee's planned evidence session of 28 April, on the Australia FTA. We first called you to give evidence for two hours at this session on 31 March,¹ and only received your refusal to attend from officials on 22 April.

In the evidence session, you agreed to appear before this Committee, initially suggesting next week then agreeing that before the end of May "should be absolutely fine".² The Committee's expectation was – naturally and reasonably – that this appearance would be for the full two hours previously requested.

I was displeased to hear that attempts to arrange the session have been dragging on at the official level, with the suggestion of just an hour being offered and no reply being received within the deadline set by our Clerk. I fear this is at risk of becoming another unnecessarily drawn-out process that risks the Committee being able to determine and conduct its scrutiny in the appropriate manner of its choosing.

Please will you direct your officials to ensure that two hours are made available for you to give evidence in the morning (10-12) or afternoon (1-4) of Tuesday 24 May or Wednesday 25 May, or in the morning (10-12) of Thursday 26 May, and confirm this by close Monday 9 May. This Committee is going out of its way to offer options; I hope you will ensure this flexibility is reciprocated.

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

Kind regards,

Angus Brendan MacNeil
Chair of the International Trade Committee

¹ [Letter from the Chair to the Secretary of State relating to Australia free trade agreement timings, date 31 March 2022](#)

² [Q199](#)