



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
SW1A 2DY

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair, International Trade Committee,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E trevelyan@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk/dit

9 May 2022

Dear Angus,

I am writing to provide more information on the Board of Trade in response to a request made by members of the committee during its inquiry on 27 April 2022 into the work of my department.

Formally speaking, as the President of the Board of Trade, I am the only member of the Board. Other participants in the Board's work (our meetings and the creation of the Board's papers) are Advisers to the Board of Trade. Advisers to the Board of Trade offer thought-leadership to myself as the President of the Board of Trade on questions of trade policy and offer specialist insights into specific policy areas. Advisers are not involved in the day-to-day running of DIT. They are not involved in trade negotiations nor in the formal policy deliberations of the government. Advisers to the Board of Trade are appointed directly by myself (or my predecessors) based on their expertise from areas including business, academia, politics and government. Advisers to the Board of Trade are not representatives of the department. They share their views with me and with the public purely in an individual capacity.

In its recent history, since the creation of DIT in 2016, the Board of Trade has been supported with Secretariat from DIT and issued four publications (Global Britain, Green Trade, Digital Trade, Maritime Opportunities). These publications do not make commitments on behalf of government, nor do they seek to table future government policy. They simply include reflections and recommendations from Advisers to inform debate. They are think-pieces that government and other stakeholders can consider. They neither constitute nor constrain formal policymaking.

The secretariat organises Board of Trade meetings and facilitates the production of the Board of Trade's publications.

I trust that this clarifies the role played by the Board of Trade and its Advisers.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Anne Marie' in a cursive script. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

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