



# International Trade Committee

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

12 May 2022

Dear Anne-Marie,

I am writing further to my letter last week,<sup>1</sup> as I am greatly dissatisfied it continues to prove so hard to resolve this matter despite your assurances.

I understand that your officials refused to consider the range of dates and time I offered in my letter, or the additional ones I subsequently agreed in the interests of being accommodating.<sup>2</sup> Instead they just offered slightly more time on a date we had already rejected, and still not for the necessary two hours. It is astonishing and almost beyond belief that across six days you consider all existing meetings more important than giving evidence to a Parliamentary committee on such an important matter – particularly when you have already rejected previous calls to give evidence.

The dogmatic approach your department continues to take is deeply unhelpful, and would be bad enough if that were the end of the story. However, even now – after our showing further flexibility by offering to see a junior minister instead – the issue rumbles on and no date has been agreed, days after you agreed to this approach.

This whole saga suggests a worrying and deep disrespect and disregard for Parliament and this Committee. Please will you direct your officials and ministers to unblock this issue and confirm when we will be allowed to see a minister, urgently.

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".

Angus Brendan MacNeil  
Chair of the International Trade Committee

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<sup>1</sup> [Correspondence with the Secretary of State regarding giving evidence on the UK-Australia free trade agreement, dated 05 May 2022](#)

<sup>2</sup> The morning (10-12) or afternoon (1-4) of Tuesday 7 June or Wednesday 8 June, or the morning (10-12) of Thursday 9 June.