



Department for International Trade

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14 June 2022

Dear Robert,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent election to the Chairmanship of your Committee. I look forward to continuing to build a constructive relationship with your committee as we implement our new independent trade policy. On 16 December 2021, I wrote to your Committee to confirm that I, alongside then Australian Minister of Trade, Dan Tehan, had signed the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This was followed by an Oral Ministerial statement as well as a cross-party briefing session on 5 January 2022. The Australia and New Zealand Trade Bill was subsequently introduced in Parliament on 11 May.

I am now writing to inform you, confidentially, that the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Treaty will be formally laid in Parliament for formal pre-ratification scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG) on the 15 June.

This Government is committed to transparency, and we have worked hard to ensure robust scrutiny of the deal can take place. This includes publishing the deal as soon as it was signed, meaning it has now been available for scrutiny for nearly six months.

The Agreement and a draft Explanatory Memorandum were laid in Parliament on 16 December 2021 alongside an independently scrutinised Impact Assessment. Since then, the Trade and Agriculture Commission's independent advice on whether measures in the FTA are consistent with the maintenance of UK levels of statutory protection was published on 13 April 2022 and shared with your Committee in confidence several days prior.

We also published the report under Section 42 of Agriculture Act 2020 on 6 June 2022, responding to the TAC advice. This shared with your Committee on 27 May to allow ample time for you to consider the report and its response to the Trade and Agriculture Commission before the commencement of CRaG.

As all required steps have been completed, we are now beginning the formal scrutiny procedures under CRaG in order to move forward on ratification of the Agreement and ensure that UK businesses can access the benefits of the Agreement.

The UK-Australia FTA is the first trade deal the UK has negotiated from scratch since leaving the European Union and it shows what we can do as an independent trading nation. We have consulted businesses and interested parties at all stages of the negotiations and the result is a trade deal tailored to the UK and Australian economies. The deal is expected to increase trade with Australia by 53%, boost the UK economy by £2.3 billion and add £900 million to household wages each year in the long-run.

The deal will also play an important role in levelling up the UK, delivering benefits for towns, cities and rural areas throughout the country. The economies of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are estimated to benefit from a combined boost of £200 million as a result of the deal. We have kept in regular communication with the devolved administrations (DAs) throughout negotiations. They have been able to feed in the views on all areas of the FTA, especially those that intersect with devolved competence. Australia negotiations were discussed regularly by DIT and DA Ministers at the Ministerial Forum for Trade and the Chief or Deputy Chief negotiator met with their DAs counterparts at least 25 times.

Businesses will be able to benefit from the removal of tariffs on all UK exports and reduction of red tape for exporters, with the vast majority coming into effect at entry into force. Additionally, UK companies will now have legally guaranteed access to bid for additional Australian government contracts worth approximately £10 billion per year.

Best wishes,

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