



Department for International Trade

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Dear Angus,

Thank you for the report published on 29 June on the scrutiny process for the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement and your subsequent letter of the same date.

I am very sorry that I was unable to attend the evidence session with the Committee on Wednesday. I take the role of your Committee very seriously and I assure you this decision was not taken lightly, and, as I set out at the despatch box, was made only in light of the urgent need to consider carefully our international discussions regarding the steel safeguards. I am pleased that we have been able to agree a new date for me to attend the Committee next week.

You have asked for a response to your report by 1 July, two days after the report was published, instead of the usual two months. Your report must receive my full consideration and I am unable to do this in two days. I therefore look forward to discussing the detail of the Committee's report – and the agreement itself – next week.

Yours sincerely,

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