



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
Whitehall
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1 July 2022

Dear Anne-Marie,

Thank you for your letter this afternoon. I wanted to clarify a few important points referred to in it, in case this would help you to respond differently or sooner.

You state that we asked for a response to our report by today. We have been clear that we are not seeking a full Government response to the whole report, which covers nine paragraphs of conclusions and recommendation. The report only asks for an urgent response from you on our recommendation that the CRaG period be extended.¹

You also say that we asked for a response within two days of publication. Your department was sent the report under embargo at 9am on Tuesday 28 June, and we asked for a response by the end of this week. This is closer to at least four working days and up to six calendar days.

I am gratified that you are giving our report your full consideration, but I hope that these clarifications mean you will be able to respond to our recommendation that the Government extend the CRaG period – before we see you on Wednesday 6 July.

This is particularly important since, as my letter on 29 June noted,² we received official-level notification that morning that your department had already decided not to extend the CRaG period following our request. If this was incorrect, I would be grateful for formal confirmation of that and your decision on whether to extend the CRaG period.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Liaison Committee, given his Committee's support of our request and his letter to the Prime Minister today to this effect, and the Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee given his Committee's inquiry on treaty scrutiny.

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

¹ International Trade Committee, First Report of Session 2022–23, [UK trade negotiations: Scrutiny of Agreement with Australia](#), HC444, para 27

² [Correspondence from the Chair to the Secretary of State relating to Australia agreement scrutiny period extension, dated 29 June 2022](#)