



International Trade Committee

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Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

30 July 2020

Dear Elizabeth,

I am writing to you regarding points made in my Committee's recent report, *The COVID-19 pandemic and international trade*, on the role of Her Majesty's Trade Commissioners (HMTCs).

Paragraphs 56 and 57 of the report consider the transfer of HMTCs from your Department to the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. We would welcome clarification, at the earliest opportunity, of the role of HMTCs in light of this move, including how their work will align with that of Department for International Trade staff in overseas posts, the administration of the GREAT campaign and the forthcoming revised Export Strategy. We would also welcome clarification of whether the work of HMTCs will now be examined and included as part of the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

I copy this letter to Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus B MacNeil".

Angus Brendan MacNeil
Chair of the International Trade Committee