



Department for International Trade

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
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By email only.

13 August 2020

Dear Angus,

Update on US retaliatory tariffs on EU and UK products

Last night the US announced threatened tariffs on UK products such as gin, beer and blended whisky would not be applied as part of the Airbus/Boeing dispute. In addition, the US will be removing tariffs on UK products such as shortbread, which had previously had tariffs placed on them. This is good news for producers in Scotland and across the UK.

The full changes to the US tariffs include:

- The 25% tariff on sweet biscuits, including shortbread, will no longer target imports from the UK. This will now only target imports from Germany.
- The 25% tariff on all other non-aircraft related products will remain the same.
- The 15% tariff on aircraft will remain the same.

The US has also added a 25% tariff to various jams imported from France and Germany. Any changes will come into effect from 1 September 2020.

This follows my meeting with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, last week in Washington DC, as well as extensive lobbying across the Government.

However, the announcement does not address the tariffs that already exist on goods such as single malt whisky. These tariffs damage industry and livelihoods on both sides of the Atlantic and are in nobody's interest. I am in further talks with Ambassador Lighthizer to remove these damaging tariffs as soon as possible.

Having left the EU, and as a newly independent trading nation, my colleagues and I are working hard to lower tariffs and reduce export barriers for our great British products. By delivering FTAs with allies such as Japan, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand we will make it easier for British businesses to trade across the globe. That is why removing these unfair and unjust tariffs will continue to form a key part of our negotiations with the US, and we will look at all possible options to resolve this dispute.

The Minister of State for Trade Policy Greg Hands, will be holding a virtual briefing for MPs whose constituencies are affected by the US retaliatory tariffs dispute today (13 August) at 16:30. Please email parliament@trade.gov.uk to receive the instructions to join the Teams call.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', is positioned above the typed name.

THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade