



## Department for International Trade

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

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk](mailto:truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk/dit](http://www.gov.uk/dit)

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP  
International Trade Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
[trade.com@parliament.uk](mailto:trade.com@parliament.uk)

22 September 2020

Dear Angus,

### **Update on negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with the US**

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I will be making a Written Ministerial Statement today to update Parliament on the fourth round of negotiations towards a UK-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The fourth UK-US FTA negotiating round took place from 8 to 18 September 2020, consisting of 29 sessions covering 16 different chapter areas. Significant progress has been achieved since launching negotiations in May 2020, and most chapter areas are now in the advanced stages of talks.

In the fourth round, both sides continued to have detailed textual discussions, and negotiators are now in the process of consolidating texts in the majority of chapter areas.

Shortly before the fourth negotiating round both sides exchanged their first tariff offers, allowing a series of detailed market access discussions to be held during the round. The exchange of tariff offers is a notable milestone, and the speed at which this stage has been reached demonstrates the momentum behind these negotiations.

In total, 132 sessions have been held over the past four negotiating rounds, as well as an additional 30 intersessional discussions, involving officials from 20 different UK Government departments and agencies.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue negotiations at pace throughout the Autumn in advance of the US Presidential elections.

The fifth round of talks will take place in mid to late October, with additional intersessional discussions taking place between the fourth and fifth rounds. Further such talks will be held this week on Telecommunications, Intellectual Property, Market Access, and Rules of Origin.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Truss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'T'.

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