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Dear Dianne,

**Government Response to International Agreements Committee Report on the
UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement**

Thank you for the International Agreements Committee's report 'Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-Australia free trade agreement'.

I am grateful for this thorough and thoughtful report provided by your Committee, which highlights the important and crucial role select committees play in the UK's political system. I particularly welcome the positive comments in relation to the provisions on services trade, on how the free trade agreement reduces barriers to trade and puts in place liberal rules of origin and on the provisions on procurement.

I also welcome the positive comments that the Committee has made regarding the Government's approach to scrutiny and transparency of free trade agreements, acknowledging the additional measures that have been put in place to assist Parliament in its scrutiny of free trade agreements.

A response to the recommendations in the report accompany this letter.

Best wishes,

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

Government Response to International Agreements Committee Report on the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement

You ask whether discussions will be needed with regulators at the sub-federal level in Australia in respect of mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and, if so, what steps we are taking to engage with individual states (paragraph 21).

The UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) requires the UK and Australia to encourage, as appropriate, their regulators to provide routes for the recognition of professional qualifications. These obligations apply to any regulated profession, and the duty to encourage applies to all relevant regulators, including at the federal and state level. To support regulators to agree recognition arrangements, including with their Australian counterparts, BEIS has established a Recognition Facilitation team. This team provides advice, expertise, and other forms of support to regulators and professional bodies across the four nations of the UK.

The UK-Australia FTA also establishes a Professional Services Working Group which will look for opportunities to address behind the border barriers to trade in services associated with recognition of professional qualifications, accreditation and other regulatory issues. The Working Group will facilitate the effective implementation and administration of systems for recognition of professional qualifications and will support relevant bodies in pursuing the objectives of the Professional Services and Recognition of Professional Qualifications Chapter. Within two years of entry into force, the Working Group will report to the Services and Investment Committee on its progress and consider recommendations for initiatives to promote the recognition of professional qualifications.

You ask that we strengthen the assessment of the potential impacts of the digital trade provisions and ensure it is included in future FTAs Impact Assessments (paragraph 33).

As part of the process of producing all our analysis, the Department constantly reviews and improves methodologies to ensure they reflect global best practice as set out in recent analysis by government departments, international organisations or academia.

Efforts are underway, in the UK and internationally, to better capture digital trade in official trade statistics. We will aim to capture these improvements in our future analysis where possible, and as appropriate to the context of any given FTA.

You ask that we explain how we will ensure UK citizens' personal data exchanged under the UK-Australia FTA will be protected, and that we offer commitments that digital trade provisions in new free trade agreements will not risk losing the UK's data adequacy decision with the European Union (EU) (paragraph 34).

The UK-Australia FTA enables the free flow of trusted data between the UK and Australia so that trade can flourish between our two countries without unjustified barriers. This is necessary for UK businesses to provide modern services while helping to ensure that data can be processed, and transferred between the two countries, without facing unnecessary red tape.

The agreement safeguards the UK's high standards on personal data protection and locks in a requirement for personal data to be protected in both countries. The deal ensures that both the UK and Australia maintain their domestic personal data protection regimes and draw on world-leading international principles and guidelines in their design. The deal also

requires both the UK and Australia to publish information on the protections it provides and includes information on how citizens can take steps to enforce their personal data protection rights.

Transfers of personal data to Australia must satisfy UK's data protection law, providing confidence for consumers to shop online and benefit from international services. UK data protection rules will continue to apply.

In June 2021, the EU formally recognised the UK's high data protection standards as 'adequate.' The Government welcomes the EU's adequacy decisions, which allow for the continued free flow of personal data from the EU and EEA to the UK.

The UK, which now operates a fully independent data policy, has also legislated to permit the free flow of personal data from the UK to the EU and EEA. We will continue to engage with the EU as appropriate on these issues.

You ask that we clarify the policy towards ISDS, including our position on other mechanisms for investment protection (paragraph 42).

In light of the UK-Australia investment relationship, the UK and Australia decided that it was not necessary to include ISDS in this new bilateral FTA.

The precise details of any future free trade agreement are a matter of formal negotiations, and we would not seek to pre-empt these discussions. If it is deemed that a legal mechanism is appropriate for resolving investment disputes, the mechanism will reflect modern practice, deliver fair outcomes of claims, require high ethical standards for arbitrators and include transparent proceedings.

You ask that we continue to monitor the levels of pesticide residue on imported goods from Australia and ensure that they remain at safe levels (Paragraph 71).

Post-Brexit, UK legislation has retained the statutory requirements relating to standards of protection for pesticides, including the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) regime.

The UK-Australia FTA does not create any new permissions or authorisations for imports from Australia. All agri-food products imported into the UK under the agreement will, as now, have to comply with our import requirements including MRLs.

There is a comprehensive Government programme of monitoring of pesticide residues in food to determine whether food available to UK consumers complies with the statutory residue levels and is safe. The results of this monitoring are published following consideration by the Defra Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food.

Consumers can be confident in the safety of imported food. Food imports will still have to meet our existing and future standards under this deal.

Your report claims that we “prioritised tariff removal over demanding certain conditions on production methods and animal welfare to be met” and asks that we set out the rationale behind our approach (paragraph 72).

Tariff liberalisation – making it cheaper for UK businesses to export to Australia – was a key UK objective for these negotiations and one the Government delivered. We successfully secured 100% tariff liberalisation for UK exports to Australia (after a period of short staging on a select few products). This will deliver for the 15,900 businesses already exporting goods to Australia and UK businesses will see duties of up to 5% immediately eliminated on

exports of cars, whisky, some pharmaceutical products, motors and clothing eliminated as soon as the agreement enters into force.

In return we have offered liberalisation on 98.6% of tariffs on UK imports from Australia and consumers could benefit from cheaper imports such as Australian wine, by removing duties of up to 20p per bottle, as well as staple Australian products such as Tim Tams and swimwear. Nevertheless, we have taken a cautious approach to tariff liberalisation of some imports and have agreed a variety of liberalisation mitigations for industry including tariff staging, tariff rate quotas and safeguards to protect the UK's farming industry against any potential surge in imports.

Our deal with Australia is the first signed FTA in the world to contain a dedicated chapter on animal welfare. It includes commitments on non-regression, a first in any free trade agreement, and to work together to raise regulatory standards domestically and internationally. We also secured the exclusion of pork, chicken and eggs from tariff liberalisation, reflecting concerns about animal welfare and the low volumes of trade between Australia and the UK on these products.

Products imported into the UK will continue to have to comply with our existing import requirements. The UK already imports agricultural products from Australia, including beef, sheep meat and dairy, which have to meet our stringent import requirements. The FTA will not result in new permissions or access for products which are otherwise not permitted or present in the UK market prior to the agreement coming into force, regardless of tariff liberalisation.

You ask that the Government notify the committee of significant amendments to the agreement irrespective of whether or not CRAg is engaged (paragraph 79).

The Government's intention is that significant amendments to FTA treaties should be subject to ratification and therefore will be submitted to parliament for scrutiny in accordance with CRAg. Moreover, all treaty amendments (whether subject to CRAg or not) are laid in Parliament as Command Papers and published in United Kingdom Treaty Series.

In addition, as with other UK FTAs, all Joint Committee decisions made under this Agreement (including Joint Committee decisions which constitute treaty amendments) will be published on the same webpage as the Agreement on gov.uk. This will ensure a complete, up-to-date and easily accessible record of the Agreement and relevant related documents.

Alongside the reporting outlined above, the Government also intends to provide updates to the International Agreements Committee and International Trade Committee regarding the implementation, and continued operation, of this Agreement on a regular basis. The Government will continue to review and adopt best practices in this regard as the UK's first 'from scratch' free trade agreements come into force, as it will with wider scrutiny arrangements.

You ask that we explain why we did not commission advice on the impacts of the agreement on broader human health (paragraph 87).

The Government's report under Section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020 considered the impact of the agreement on relevant UK domestic regulations in relation to human health, including food safety standards.

It drew on the independent advice of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS). In drawing up the report, the Department also worked closely with officials in the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC). Between the FSA, FSS, and the DHSC, we consider that the Section 42 report did benefit from the input of the relevant experts on human health in accordance with the specific scope set out in Section 42 of the Agriculture Act.

You ask that we ensure businesses are supported to take advantage of the Rules of Origin provisions in the agreement (paragraph 97).

The Government is focussed on ensuring business can reap the benefits of this deal. We will continue to ensure that businesses are supported to take advantage of the Rules of Origin in the UK-Australia FTA, building on the work we do to enable businesses to take advantage of Rules of Origin more broadly.

The Government has already started to directly engage and answer business' questions; for example, we held a webinar in collaboration with the Australia – UK Chambers of Commerce explaining this FTA's Rules of Origin to over 100 businesses. The webinar is available for free on the Australia-UK Chamber of Commerce's website:

<https://www.australiachamber.co.uk/news-and-insights/rules-of-origin-maximising-low-tariff-rates-with-the-fta-recap.html>.

In preparing for the agreement to enter into force the Government will provide guidance in respect of Rules of Origin and the Government's 'trade with the UK' tool and 'check duties and customs procedures for exporting goods' tool will be updated to reflect the Rules of Origin agreed with Australia.

You ask that we set out plans for further reducing technical barriers to trade (TBT) (paragraph 98).

The UK-Australia FTA reduces existing barriers to trade while ensuring the UK's right to regulate.

The TBT chapter paves the way for further reducing barriers by setting out that the UK and Australia will consider, upon request, whether product regulations of the other country are equivalent to their own domestic regulations. Both the UK and Australia also commit to basing their regulations on relevant international standards.

A key element of implementing the FTA is maintaining an ongoing dialogue about remaining issues and barriers. This is why we have established a TBT Committee, which can set up working groups on specific topics. In addition to cross-cutting information exchange and cooperation articles, there are also sector-specific commitments for cosmetics (in a corresponding annex to the TBT chapter), medicines and medical devices (in a side letter). The UK will use all of these channels.

You ask that we ensure businesses and the people of Northern Ireland are empowered to fully benefit from the FTA and other agreements that follow. You also ask that explanatory materials on future trade agreements routinely cover how trade between Northern Ireland and the other party will be impacted by the Northern Ireland Protocol (paragraphs 103 and 104).

The Government negotiated this deal with Australia on behalf of the whole UK including Northern Ireland, and it contains a provision in the text that allows the Protocol to operate alongside the agreement. Northern Irish businesses will benefit from preferential access to

the Australian market and Northern Irish consumers can buy many Australian goods more cheaply.

However, the Protocol is causing practical problems in Northern Ireland. The Government is legislating to restore the balance inherent in the underlying objectives of the Protocol – avoiding a hard border, protecting the integrity of the UK and safeguarding the EU Single Market. The measures we are legislating for will further improve these benefits to Northern Irish businesses and consumers by streamlining and broadening access to cheaper imports.

Your report states that “it is regrettable that the Government did not press Australia for more ambitious commitments on climate change and that the temperature goals were not explicitly referenced in the FTA.” You ask that we establish a firm baseline for future agreements which goes beyond the UK-Australia FTA text (paragraph 115).

The UK has signed an ambitious environment chapter with Australia which goes beyond all of their previous FTAs. It includes a standalone climate change article which contains the most substantive climate change provisions Australia has agreed to in an FTA. Both the UK and Australia affirm their commitment to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and recognise all its goals, which include the temperature goals.

The outcome of each future free trade agreement will be subject to specific bilateral negotiations, but the Government will continue to ensure that our new trade agreements are consistent with and reinforce a high level of protection of the environment.

You ask that we review the provisions related to environment and climate issues and monitor their implementation (paragraph 116).

Under the UK-Australia FTA we have agreed to establish an Environment Working Group which will meet within one year of entry into force of the FTA and will meet regularly thereafter. The Working Group will review and monitor the implementation of provisions in the Environment chapter.

The Department will also work closely with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other Government Departments to monitor the impact of FTAs. In addition, the Department has committed to publishing a comprehensive ex-post evaluation of the UK-Australia FTA within five years of its entry into force. The Department will work with Departments across Government to assess the impact and effectiveness of the agreement and its implementation. This will cover a range of impacts, including the environment.

Your report notes that it was regrettable that the agreement did not include any references to reducing or reviewing Australia’s reliance on coal in contrast to the UK-New Zealand free trade agreement (paragraph 117).

All trade deals are bespoke - there is no one size fits all and no two can be directly compared. The Environment chapter under the UK-Australia FTA goes further than their previous FTAs, and includes provisions which seek to support and strengthen cooperation to move towards a low-carbon economy.

Provisions within the FTA seek to facilitate trade and investment in environmentally friendly goods and services and strengthen cooperation in areas including clean growth and renewable energy sources. Tariffs have also been removed on goods such as electric vehicles and wind turbine parts.

The UK and Australia will continue to cooperate through a range of bilateral and multilateral fora on environment and climate change issues, including through the institutional bodies established under the UK-Australia FTA or the separate 'Clean Technology Partnership' launched in July 2021 which was established with the aim to collaborate on innovative, low-carbon technologies.

You ask that future Impact Assessments should cover in greater detail transport-related emissions, the potential for increases in carbon leakage, impacts on deforestation and biodiversity (paragraph 119).

The Government did assess these impacts and found that UK-based production emissions were largely unchanged, but there will be some increase in transport-related emissions. The Government recognises the importance of assessing the environmental impacts of new FTAs and is continuing to look to improve our analysis of these impacts. Our approach to the assessment of environmental impacts is similar to EU Sustainability Impact Assessments, covering a range of environmental impacts such as emissions (both production and transport), carbon leakage, deforestation and biodiversity.

Whilst not covered in the production emissions section, transport emissions are covered and assessed in detail in their own section. Estimates of transport emissions cover the emissions from the transport of both exports and imports travelling the full distance between the UK and Australia.

DIT will continue to work closely with other Departments to assess the environmental impacts of new FTAs and to improve their coverage and approach.

You ask that, in light of our net zero commitments, future free trade agreements should seek to achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (paragraph 120).

Negotiating inter-Governmental reductions in GHG emissions is a matter that is handled through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties and inter-Governmental environment agreements. It would be neither practical nor coherent to start parallel negotiations on this in trade agreements.

However, more generally, the Government is committed to promoting green trade and achieving net zero, and the Department is pursuing a range of objectives consistent with this.

This includes ensuring FTAs maintain our high environmental protections, recognise our right to regulate to meet net zero, and strengthen cooperation in tackling climate change. It also means using trade tools such as our Clean Growth export programme, leadership in multilateral fora and unilateral tools such as tariff liberalisation for the UK's Green 100.

We will continue to explore how we can do more for example through sharing expertise and increasing the uptake of environmental goods and services.

You ask that once the agreement is implemented, we encourage Australia to review provisions and introduce a Geographical Indications (GI) scheme (paragraph 131).

Australia do not currently have a GI scheme for agri-food or spirits. The UK has agreed that, should Australia introduce a scheme for the protection of GIs in the next two years as part of an international agreement, the UK will be able to submit all eligible UK GIs for protection in Australia.

To support this, we have agreed a side letter which includes a list of the GIs the UK is intending to protect in Australia should the Parties agree to establish a GI scheme. This side letter can be updated at a later date to include future UK GI registrations.

This is the strongest commitment Australia have made towards setting up a GI scheme in any of their FTAs and is therefore a significant gain for the UK. We will continue to discuss GIs with Australia over the next two years and are confident that we will make progress towards protection of UK GIs in Australia.

You ask that we monitor the levels of preference usage and provide support, including export support, for SMEs as required (paragraph 141).

Relatedly, you ask that we keep both you and the International Trade Committee informed on progress and outcomes of monitoring and evaluation, making reports available to Parliament by depositing them in the libraries of both Houses (paragraph 169).

The Government understands the need for ongoing monitoring of our FTAs and has committed to publishing a biennial free trade agreement monitoring report in Impact Assessments for the UK-Japan CEPA, and the UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand free trade agreements, and this will include measuring the utilisation of these agreements. as well as a comprehensive ex-post evaluation report for these FTAs.

The Government published a refreshed Export Strategy in November 2021, further evolving our support for exporters. The UK-wide Export Academy provides bespoke training programmes and digital tools to help businesses navigate the technicalities of exporting and find opportunities overseas. This includes market access events and learning about the benefits of new FTAs. Supporting SMEs to take advantage of FTAs is a key part of our 'Made in the UK, Sold to the World' campaign. The campaign aims to showcase products and services as well as reach out to new SMEs that are ready to export.

A community of 430 Export Champions share their export journeys and act as role models for new and aspiring exporters. Businesses across England can benefit from a network of approximately 300 International Trade Advisors who provide bespoke exporting advice one-on-one to SMEs.

UK Export Finance and the Internationalisation Fund can provide businesses with financial support.

Your report states that the UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand FTAs use different structures for competition policy and consumer protection chapters and notes consumer interests warrants its own chapter (paragraph 142).

Both the UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand FTAs contain strong provisions to protect consumers.

The UK-Australia FTA contains provisions which ban three harmful practices to consumers: fraudulent, deceptive and misleading commercial activities in both online and offline settings. It ensures consumers have statutory rights in relation to goods and services provided to them. In addition, the agreement recognises the importance of providing consumers with access to redress mechanisms and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms if they suffer detriment.

In the UK-Australia FTA, consumer protection provisions are woven across two chapters (the Competition Policy and Digital chapters), which is standard practice in most FTAs. In the UK-New Zealand FTA, the agreement includes a specific chapter on consumer protection, a first for the UK's independent trade policy.

Each negotiation and the corresponding FTA commitments are bespoke and a unique outcome agreed between the parties involved.

You welcome the inclusion of an Innovation chapter but ask for further information about how it could be used for the benefit of UK businesses and consumers (paragraph 143).

Innovation will change the way trade takes place, resulting in both opportunities and challenges for policymakers and businesses. Recognising innovation as a key factor for sustained growth, economic viability, increased well-being, and societal development, the UK and Australia have agreed to enhance our cooperation through the FTA on matters fostering innovation, including future regulatory approaches, the commercialisation of new technologies and supply chain resilience.

The chapter provides a strategic innovation dialogue for the early identification and resolution of unintended barriers to trade in innovative goods and services, supporting trade and driving forward innovation in our economies, which in turn will allow innovation to prosper and make commercialisation and innovation processes more efficient.

You ask for clarity on our rationale for choosing some chapters to be subject to dispute resolution mechanisms and not others (paragraph 144).

The Government's policy on Dispute Settlement is to establish appropriate mechanisms that promote compliance with the agreement and to seek to ensure that state-to-state disputes are dealt with consistently, fairly and in a cost-effective, transparent and timely manner whilst seeking predictability and certainty for businesses and stakeholders.

Particular chapters may be excluded from the scope of an FTA's dispute settlement provisions, depending on the nature of the chapter and specific commitments contained therein. The scope of the dispute settlement chapter was decided in discussions between the UK and Australia.

In your report, you call on us to ensure that consultation with the devolved administrations (DAs) and legislatures is "comprehensive, transparent, detailed and timely", and that their views are represented throughout the negotiations, including on reserved matters that may have an impact on them (paragraph 154).

Our involvement of the DAs in negotiations with Australia is already in line with the committee's recommendation and is the model being used for all subsequent negotiations. All DIT Chief Negotiators have held calls with the DAs in line with negotiation rounds for US, Australian, New Zealand, Japan, EEA-EFTA, Turkey, Canada and Mexico negotiations. These discussions increase in frequency to match the pace of negotiations in the approach to signature. For example, during the Australia negotiations there were 25 Chief, or Deputy Chief, Negotiator updates provided to DA officials across the negotiation lifecycle.

DIT officials work closely with their colleagues in the DAs to ensure that their views are taken into account in the formulation of the UK's international trade policy. The Senior Officials Group (SOG) is the primary forum for Senior Civil Servants engagement with the DAs on trade policy. The group meets on a six-weekly basis and has met 26 times since its inception in June 2018.

DIT policy teams host regular roundtables with the DAs on both reserved and devolved areas of policy and the TSG devolution team meets weekly with DA counterparts to discuss the department's work. On the UK-Australia FTA negotiations this resulted in over 100 hours of policy discussions on all areas of the negotiation.

The Ministerial Forum for Trade (which will now be called Inter-Ministerial Group Trade going forwards), established in January 2020 and chaired by the Minister for Trade Policy, meets on a quarterly basis. The Forum plays an important role in ensuring that the views of the DAs are considered during the formulation of UK trade policy. It has met eight times, most recently on 5th July 2022 and is next due to meet in the Autumn.

Regarding the reporting of DA views. Whilst the Government is always happy to report on the steps taken to involve the DAs in FTA negotiations, it would not be appropriate for the Government to report directly on their views. To this end, we acknowledge and welcome the open invitation for the DAs to continue to provide evidence to the IAC.

We recognise the DAs have valuable expertise, evidence and connections to stakeholders, businesses and consumers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which can be of benefit to the overall UK position. The positive engagement with the DAs to date on the FTA programme, and the trust that has been established, has resulted in an offer by the Government to substantially increase the scope of information sharing to cover written information for all areas of free trade agreement negotiations, as part of seeking a wider agreement on working together.

The broad structures used by the Government to engage the DAs are well-established and have been reported to the committee on previous occasions. These structures, now coupled with extensive information sharing, mean that the Department has provided the DAs with all the tools they require to represent their views on free trade agreement negotiations. In return, it is the expectation that the DAs can respond and engage with the necessary detail, with well-evidenced positions which reflect the context of negotiations with specific partners.

You reiterate a previous recommendation from your 'Working Practices: One Year On' report that consultation and dialogue with your Committee should start before a mandate is established, so the final mandate can be informed by Parliament (paragraph 161).

The Government welcomes the Committee's recommendation regarding engagement with the Committee in the pre-negotiations phase.

The Department will make Ministers and senior officials available to privately discuss prospective negotiations with the Committee, before negotiations are launched. We expect this to take place during the public consultation period for a new free trade agreement but will work with the Committee's clerks on the detail.

You note that it is "regrettable" that the agreement cannot be placed within the context of a published trade policy and ask that we publish a comprehensive trade policy before signing another trade agreement with a major economy (paragraph 171).

The Government has a clear vision that guides our trade strategy. We champion open and fair trade in line with the Government's wider economic strategy to drive growth, jobs, higher wages, and raise living standards across the UK and abroad.

Our trade policy is framed by the strategic context set out in the Integrated Review, which recognises that our future prosperity hinges on deepening our economic relationships with high growth regions across the world, such as the Indo-Pacific.

Our trade policy objectives reflect this vision and the strategic context we are operating in. These objectives are published in the Department's Outcome Delivery Plan. They are to secure world class FTAs and reduce market access barriers; and to champion the rules-based international trading system, ensuring it is fit for a modern, global economy, and to protect UK businesses from unfair trade practices.

Our approach to achieving our objectives is set out in 'Build Back Better: our Plan for Growth'. We will deepen our economic relationships with new and existing partners through trade agreements and market access agreements to open new opportunities, provide greater market access for UK business and more choice for our consumers. At the same time, we will use this network of trading partners, and work with other likeminded partners on trade, to build support for modernisation of the global trade rule book and reform of the WTO to ensure it is fit for purpose in a 21st Century global economy.

We will continue to publish strategic cases for each new FTA. Each strategic case places the trade agreement within our wider strategic approach.

The Government has consistently and clearly set out its trade policy strategy in publicly available documents. We will build on these and adapt to global challenges and the evolving strategic context while continuing to pursue our economic and international interests, keeping our strategy agile and dynamic.

Government Engagement with Parliament and the Committee

The Government is grateful for the positive comments that the Committee has made regarding the Government's approach to scrutiny and transparency of FTAs, acknowledging the additional measures that have been put in place to assist Parliament in its scrutiny of free trade agreements.

The Government also welcomes the positive and constructive relationship that has been built between the Committee and the Government. This constructive relationship was particularly demonstrated through the recent exchange of letters the Government undertook with the International Agreements Committee and International Trade Committee. We would like to thank the Committee and its clerks for the collaborative and positive engagement we have had in progressing this work, and we look forward to continuing this positive engagement as the Government works to deliver future free trade agreements.

As the Government has previously stated, the length, breadth of scope and complexity, as well as the impact, of free trade agreements warrant the specific regime of engagement and information provision that the Government has developed. As already stated in this response we are open to reviewing scrutiny arrangements and making improvements to the system where required.