



Department for International Trade

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Dear Angus,

I am honoured to have been appointed Secretary of State for International Trade with an exciting and ambitious trade agenda to deliver. Key to my vision for this department is building a strong and constructive working relationship with your Committee. I am fully committed to supporting you in your vital scrutiny work.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you informally in the next few weeks to discuss my early priorities and ways of working. I have asked my office to get in touch with your clerks on potential dates. I would of course also be happy to meet formally with the Committee in the coming months in support of your inquiries.

FTA Scrutiny

I have seen the exchange of letters between Lord Grimstone and Baroness Hayter setting out commitments in this regard and I fully support those commitments. I know that you have made further requests, particularly around providing more clarity on ratification timelines to support your inquiry work. I have considered these issues and would like to confirm that, for future FTAs, I envisage there being a period of at least 10 sitting days between publication of the Government's Section 42 reports and the commencement of CRaG. I am also happy to confirm that my office will, within two weeks of signature of a new FTA, offer dates for a DIT Minister to meet and we will not lay an FTA for the purposes of CRaG before those dates. I will also, starting with the UK/New Zealand FTA below, set out to your committee an indicative timeline for ratification for each new FTA once it is signed and a timeframe has been agreed with FCDO. This will include indicative timeframes for publishing the advice of the Trade and Agriculture Commission and the Section 42 report, and for commencing CRaG. My office will then keep your clerks updated as specific dates become clearer.

With regards to the UK/New Zealand FTA, I can confirm that we intend to lay the treaty for the purpose of CRaG after conference recess, no earlier than 10 sitting days after the Section 42 report was laid. This will be 8 months after the treaty was published, and over 3 months after the Section 42 report was published and my predecessor gave evidence to your Committee on the treaty.

The treaty will be brought into force after the Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill has received Royal Assent and all necessary secondary legislation is in place. I expect this to be in the first half of 2023. I hope that this provides the clarity that you seek and demonstrates my commitment to ensuring that you have sufficient time to undertake your vital scrutiny work.

I am writing to the Chair of the Lords International Agreements Committee in similar terms.

I look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for International Trade & President of the Board of Trade