



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4840
Fax: 020 7219 6715
hlintlagreements@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2DY

21 September 2022

Dear Ms Badenoch,

Congratulations on your new appointment and thanks for writing to us so early in your tenure. My committee and I welcome your letter of 20 September and your commitment to supporting the scrutiny of new trade agreements.

We were particularly pleased by your confirmation that the Government's parliamentary scrutiny commitments set out in our exchange of letters with Lord Grimstone will continue to be valid. These commitments reflect our shared understanding of undertakings the Government has made on scrutiny and provide a framework for the Government's engagement with the Committee. We were also delighted to hear that (1) there will now be a 10-day sitting period between publication of the Government's Section 42 report and the triggering of the CRAG scrutiny period, and (2) requests for evidence from DIT Ministers will be prioritised before an FTA is laid under CRAG.

The provision of indicative timelines for ratification for each new FTA is also a helpful development and we have noted the dates provided in respect of the UK-New Zealand FTA.

While we very much welcome the progress made, there are a few issues to which we hope you will give further consideration.

The first relates to the publication of a trade policy and how it links to other policy objectives. While we accept that trade policy is framed by the Integrated Review, what is missing is a comprehensive published trade policy that articulates the linkages between trade and other policy objectives. We understand the Government will soon respond to our recent report on the UK-India negotiations, but those negotiations are a case in point. There is no information available to us or the wider public that sets out the impact India's stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, its refusal to support international sanctions, and indeed increased trade with Russia, may have and should have on the UK-India trade relationship.

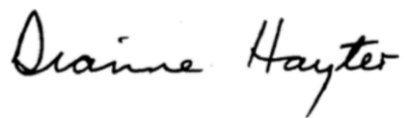
The second issue relates to Northern Ireland. There continues to be a lack of clarity over how trade agreements will operate in practice in Northern Ireland and how consumers in businesses

can fully benefit from new trade agreements.

Thirdly, while we welcome the briefings offered by your predecessor and then-Minister Lord Grimstone, it would be most helpful if your officials could review the information provided to the Committee in written round updates. These have tended to provide little information beyond that already contained in Government press releases and have therefore been of limited use.

I look forward to discussing these and other issues with you in the coming months. I have asked my officials to approach your officials to schedule in a future meeting with you and—on a more frequent basis—the new trade minister in the Lords, once they have been appointed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daiane Hayter". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Daiane" and the surname "Hayter" clearly legible.

Baroness Hayter

Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee