



Department for International Trade

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Dear Angus,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September. I particularly welcome the information you shared regarding the expected timeline for publication of your report into the New Zealand FTA.

Regarding your invitation to appear before the Committee, I can confirm that I will attend the session on 30 November. I am pleased that we will shortly be having an informal introductory meeting in addition.

Regarding the New Zealand agreement, I note your request for a debate to take place. The Government is proud of the agreements that it has negotiated and welcomes Parliamentary scrutiny of them. As you will appreciate the scheduling of Parliamentary business is not within my department's gift, but my officials will be engaging with colleagues to discuss how best to ensure appropriate scrutiny of this agreement.

On the wider question of timing of your report and the laying of the agreement for the purposes of CRaG, I believe we can find a mutually agreeable position taking into account the sad events of the past few weeks. I would ask that your clerks keep my officials informed as your timeframes become clearer and we will do the same in support of our shared objective of ensuring robust scrutiny of the New Zealand agreement.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House and to the Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee.

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

Best wishes,

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade