



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

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Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
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4 November 2022

Dear Kemi,

Government response to IAC report on the UK-Australia FTA

We are grateful for your predecessor's letter, dated 2 September, in response to the Committee's report on the UK-Australia FTA.

The Government's response provided a number of constructive commitments in relation to the engagement and scrutiny processes for FTA negotiations, which the Committee welcomes. In particular, we welcome the offer made by the Government to increase substantially the scope of information shared with the devolved administrations to cover all areas of free trade agreement negotiations. We look forward to receiving an update on how this has been implemented in about a year's time.

Regarding Parliamentary involvement in trade deals, the Government welcomed the Committee's recommendation to start consultation and dialogue with us before a negotiating mandate is established and committed to making Ministers and officials available to discuss prospective negotiations. This is a considerable step forward and we look forward to beginning that dialogue in due course.

As expressed in previous correspondence, we welcome the Government's confirmation that any significant amendments to the FTA would be subject to CRAG—though we continue to seek clarification on which amendments would be considered "significant" for this purpose.

We look forward to discussing these points with Ministers at a forthcoming evidence session, which I understand is being planned via officials, and for agreed approaches to be reflected in an updated exchange of letters on Parliamentary scrutiny commitments.

I am also copying this letter to Ivan McKee MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise; Vaughan Gething MS, Welsh Government Minister for Economy; and Angus Brendan McNeil MP, Chair of the Commons' International Trade Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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

Baroness Hayter

Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee