



# Department for International Trade

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Dear Dianne,

## **Update on United Kingdom – Mexico Free Trade Agreement Negotiations**

I am writing to update you and your committee on the second round of negotiations on the United Kingdom-Mexico Free Trade Agreement. You will also note the Written Ministerial Statement that has been laid in both Houses today. The virtual round took place between 31st October and 11th November, where negotiators met across 29 policy areas in over 35 sessions during the course of the round.

Following changes in the Mexican trade ministry at ministerial and official level in the weeks prior to the round, the UK Chief Negotiator and her new Mexican counterpart opened discussions by reaffirming their commitment to a comprehensive and progressive FTA which better reflects the trading relationship we want to have in the long term. Both agreed that the bilateral negotiations were an opportunity to complement and add value to the UK's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which Mexico supports.

Technical discussions built on the positive start made in negotiation round one in July. Positive progress was made in a number of areas, including Goods, Customs, Trade and Gender Equality, Financial Services, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and Innovation. Importantly, at this relatively early stage in negotiations, UK negotiators developed a better understanding of Mexico's positions and identified areas of convergence and divergence.

The Government is determined that any agreement must work for consumers, producers, investors, and businesses alike. We further remain committed to upholding our high environmental, labour, public health, food safety and animal welfare standards, alongside protecting the National Health Service.

The third round of official level negotiations are scheduled to take place in Mexico City in early 2023. We continue to engage with stakeholders to help inform the United Kingdom's approach to negotiations. I will write to you again to update you on progress following the third round.

I will continue to update you and your committee as the negotiations progress – this includes the offer of a private briefing with the Chief Negotiator after each substantive negotiation round. My Department and I are committed to being transparent and keeping Parliament appropriately updated on our ambitious trade agenda.

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 and President of the Board of Trade