



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment

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By email: goldsmithp@parliament.uk

26 October 2020

Dear Peter,

I am pleased to confirm that the United Kingdom and Côte d'Ivoire have signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). This will maintain existing trade arrangements and provide a foundation to develop relations and pursue common interests in the future with Côte d'Ivoire. The agreement allows businesses to trade freely, as they do now, without any additional barriers or tariffs.

Total trade in goods and services between the United Kingdom and Côte d'Ivoire was £401 million in 2019, with British exports totalling £152 million. Top imports to the United Kingdom from Côte d'Ivoire were in cocoa beans and cocoa preparations (£192 million); and edible fruit and nuts, mostly bananas (£22 million). It may be of interest to know that the United Kingdom accounts for around a quarter of all exports of cocoa butter from Côte d'Ivoire, as well as over one-in-twenty bananas. We are committed to protecting and growing trade with Côte d'Ivoire further.

By providing tariff free market access to the United Kingdom, this agreement will underpin trade in products including cocoa and bananas beyond the transition period, supporting the livelihoods of Ivorians working in these sectors. This is one way we continue to demonstrate our commitment to harnessing trade as a force for good in the developing world.

We will lay a copy of this agreement in Parliament alongside an Explanatory Memorandum and a Parliamentary Report to explain our approach to delivering continuity, in the coming weeks. Nonetheless, please let me know should you require any further information or assistance. A copy of this letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grimstone'.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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