



Department for International Trade

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade

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Mark Garnier MP
Chair Committees on Arms Export Controls
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 September 2020

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September about DIT appearing as witnesses in an early meeting of the CAEC.

I would like to begin by offering you my congratulations on being selected as the new Chair of the Committees on Arms Export Controls. The work of the CAEC is vital in holding the Government to account and I look forward to working with you in such an important area of Government policy.

I am pleased to say that Amanda Brooks CBE, Director General (interim), Trade Relations and Implementation, whose current areas of responsibility include the Export Control Joint Unit, will be available to give initial evidence to help the Committees establish the current level playing field and to address the specific issues in your letter.

It remains the case that I intend that Ministers only give evidence in person after the publication of the 2019 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls, but would also propose that to answer the CAECs questions more fully, evidence should be taken from an FCDO Minister as well as a DIT Minister.

As you are aware, the annual report is usually laid just before summer recess. However, this year, owing to the Covid 19 outbreak, work on the 2019 annual report was paused to allow the Export Control Joint Unit to prioritise licence processing. I can though confirm that work on the preparation of the 2019 annual report has resumed and that it will be laid in Parliament before the end of the calendar year.

I will of course write to you again when I have a more definite schedule for when the 2019 annual report will be published.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Elizabeth' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Truss'.

THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade