



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 July concerning the trade agreement with Japan.

I am aware that you will be holding an evidence session on 14 September. As you will be aware, events are moving quickly, as such this letter will provide you with an update on the current state of negotiations.

We are in the final stages of negotiations and are optimistic about reaching an agreement. Both the UK and Japan are committed to a deal that will enter into force by the end of 2020.

We have reached broad agreement on the vast majority of the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which goes even further than this agreement in key areas, including digital and financial services.

Negotiations always cover a range of exporting interests rather than any single good or product. Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, so the deal never really just comes down to one particular export. Both sides have to make efforts to reach a balanced agreement respecting each other's interests and sensitivities. We are confident we can resolve the very few outstanding matters in time for the end of the transition period.

We will publish a parliamentary report for the UK-Japan agreement prior to ratification, clearly highlighting any areas where there are specific material differences between the existing EPA and this deal. Both the International Trade Committee and the International Agreements Sub-Committee will have the opportunity to report on the final agreement. This will enable the public and parliamentarians to understand clearly how we have worked to secure a better deal for the UK.

I look forward to providing further detail when I can and to further discussions with the Committee on 30 September and 28 October.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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