



Department for International Trade

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
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9 November 2020

Dear Angus,

UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UK'S FUTURE TRADING RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW ZEALAND

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I will be making a Written Ministerial Statement today to update Parliament on the second round of negotiations towards a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which took place from 19 October to 2 November.

This round saw encouraging progress on numerous common interests, including Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and clean growth. Both sides re-affirmed their ambition of a chapter that enable SME businesses to fully benefit from the FTA. Both countries also had productive discussions on trade and environment and clean growth; working closely together to support sustainable outcomes across the agreement.

Our joint ambitions were also apparent in discussions around trade in services, particularly in exploring opportunities for the recognition of professional qualifications as well as innovative provisions to promote sustainable finance and diversity in the financial services sector. Similarly, our negotiations on digital trade underlined shared aspirations with the mutual intent to agree a cutting-edge chapter.

Furthermore, both sides laid our groundwork in exchanging initial goods market access offers and held positive discussions in the areas of Rules of Origin and Customs on agreeing simple, modern customs procedures that consider current and future supply chains.

Any deal the UK Government agrees will be fair and balanced and in the best interests of the whole of the UK. We remain committed to upholding our high environmental, labour, food safety and animal welfare standards in our trade agreement with New Zealand, as well as protecting the NHS.

The UK and New Zealand are both keen to continue the momentum of discussions with the third round expected in January 2021.

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