



Department for  
International Trade



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt  
Minister of State for Investment

Department for International Trade  
King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [grimstone.correspondence@trade.gov.uk](mailto:grimstone.correspondence@trade.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk/dit](http://www.gov.uk/dit)

The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith QC  
Chairman  
International Agreements Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

2 November 2020

Dear Peter,

### **Update on negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with the US**

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I will be making a Written Ministerial Statement today to update Parliament on the fifth round of negotiations towards a UK-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The fifth negotiating round took place from 19 to 30 October 2020. This was the most intensive round of negotiations held so far, with 38 sessions covering 19 different chapter areas.

Almost all chapter areas are now in the advanced stages of talks. A significant proportion of legal text has been agreed across multiple chapters.

The round included focused discussions on market access for goods, including negotiations around product specific rules of origin, which determines whether or not a product can benefit from preferential tariffs under the FTA.

This round also included detailed textual discussions on a digital chapter and agreed much of the legal framework for a future deal.

Following the significant progress made in talks to date, both sides are confident that we are on track for a comprehensive agreement that would provide a significant and mutual benefit to our economies. We believe we are in a good position to move forward after the US election.

We have agreed a programme for continued talks at official level for the weeks following the US election.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grimstone', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt**  
Minister of State for Investment  
Department for International Trade