



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee –
International Agreements Sub-Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4840
Fax: 020 7219 6715
hlntlagreements@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Rt Hon. Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

26 November 2020

Trade negotiations between the UK and New Zealand

Dear Secretary of State,

As you know, the International Agreements Sub-Committee is currently conducting inquiries into all the UK's bilateral negotiations for new trade deals, which will run until the conclusion of the CRAG scrutiny period for any agreed deal. I am writing to you about the trade agreement negotiations with New Zealand, and I will be writing separately to you about the trade agreement negotiations with Australia.

We are grateful for your written submission to this inquiry, and we have a number of observations and questions for you covering points brought forward by stakeholders in evidence gathered to date. We look forward to receiving your responses to these by no later than 1 January.

CPTPP and the New Zealand negotiations

The Government has highlighted these talks – as well as those with Japan and Australia – as a key 'stepping-stone' for accession to the CPTPP. In relation to the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, on which we reported last week,¹ CPTPP accession is being looked to to resolve the UK's reduced access to tariff rate quotas following the end of the Brexit transition period.

Our witnesses to the UK-New Zealand inquiry have expressed widespread support for the UK seeking to join the CPTPP,² although there is some caution about how UK membership of the CPTPP might interact with any UK-EU trade deal.³ Most witnesses frame the bilateral and CPTPP talks as sequential, but some have expressed the explicit view that bilateral negotiations

¹ *Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement* (16th Report, HL Paper 175)

² See, for example, written evidence from Fonterra Co-Operative Group (NZT0017) and from Beef+Lamb New Zealand and the Meat Industry Association (NZT0014)

³ Written evidence from the Law Society of Scotland (NZT0018)

ought to be concluded as a prerequisite for the UK acceding to the CPTPP.⁴ We discussed the UK's ambition to join the CPTPP with the New Zealand High Commissioner on 18 November, and he told us that the UK joining would be a "win-win" for the UK and existing members and re-emphasised that "timely conclusion" of a bilateral FTA would send a "wider signal" to the CPTPP membership of the UK's "commitment to, and ability to meet," the CPTPP's high standards requirements.⁵

Is it the Government's expectation that bilateral talks with New Zealand have to be concluded before the UK's accession to CPTPP can be fully negotiated and agreed? How will the Government handle parallel negotiations with individual CPTPP member states and with the CPTPP member states as a collective, should they overlap?

Trade in goods

The Government's written evidence to use highlighted the potential benefits for beverage firms and the automotive industry through improved trade in goods, including the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers.⁶ A large proportion of our evidence covers trade in agri-food products and associated animal welfare and sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS), which we also cover in this section as related issues.

Animal welfare and SPS

We note that the UK and New Zealand have similarly high and broadly equivalent animal welfare standards, with New Zealand rated more highly than the UK by World Animal Protection,⁷ and some of our witnesses have therefore called for "an ambitious and comprehensive animal welfare chapter" that can build on these high standards and alignment.⁸ Nevertheless, some concerns have been raised about some practices in New Zealand, in particular around the use of growth-promoting hormones in its beef industry.⁹ The British Veterinary Association has also highlighted to us that the EU-New Zealand relationship on SPS, which currently applies to the UK, is "one of the most comprehensive veterinary agreements in place today" and so should be at least replicated, if not expanded, through the bilateral negotiations.¹⁰

One other area regarding animal welfare that has been highlighted to us is product safety assessments and the ban on the use of animals in testing cosmetics ingredients, which is now retained EU law in the UK.¹¹

⁴ Written evidence from the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (NZT0012)

⁵ Q 10

⁶ Written evidence from the Department for International Trade (NZT0013)

⁷ Written evidence from the RSPCA (NZT0001), and National Office of Animal Health (NZT0002)

⁸ Written evidence from the British Veterinary Association (NZT0008) and the National Farmers' Union (NZT0016)

⁹ Written evidence from the RSPCA (NZT0001)

¹⁰ Written evidence from the British Veterinary Association (NZT0008)

¹¹ Written evidence from the RSPCA (NZT0001)

We understand that the UK and New Zealand hope to agree several elements of the SPS chapter in the next negotiating round in January, and that discussions were had in round two about the potential inclusion of animal welfare text.¹²

Do talks with New Zealand currently include a standalone chapter on animal welfare, as recommended by some of our witnesses? How, otherwise, does the Government anticipate the UK-New Zealand FTA capturing the wide range of animal welfare issues, relating not only to farming but also to product testing, such as of cosmetics?

Market access and competition

Some of our witnesses have expressed anxiety about the possibility that New Zealand producers could undercut UK ones, for example in the dairy industry, given New Zealand's "large exportable surpluses", including in the food ingredient market, and "competitive advantage of generally lower milk production costs".¹³ Conversely, given existing low tariffs and high transport costs, the dairy industry has expressed scepticism about the level of opportunities available from a UK-New Zealand deal, with Dairy UK saying that deal would offer only marginal benefits.¹⁴ Evidence from the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand has argued, conversely, that the UK's market has already experienced significant liberalisation through EU membership and that it is unlikely that liberalisation with New Zealand will generate new sensitivities.¹⁵

Another area where strong competition has been anticipated by witnesses is the sheep sector. The British Veterinary Association notes that New Zealand is the dominant supplier for imported sheep meat in the UK and that there could be oversupply from New Zealand that would need to be addressed to support domestic producers.¹⁶ The National Farmers' Union has also expressed concern about increased access to the UK's beef and lamb markets.¹⁷ Again, however, we have heard from New Zealand producers raising questions about the UK market's sensitivities in the beef and sheepmeat areas, advocating for the benefits of liberalisation through enhanced competitiveness, sustainability and productivity.¹⁸

We also note that negotiations are ongoing between the EU and New Zealand about how to divide up the EU tariff rate quota (TRQ) under which New Zealand supplies a very large proportion of UK sheep imports.¹⁹ We discussed this with the High Commissioner, and he told us that those current proposals restricted New Zealand producers' market access by

¹² <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

¹³ Written evidence from Dairy UK to the UK-US inquiry (UST0026) and to this inquiry (NZT0007), and written evidence from the National Farmers' Union (NZT0016)

¹⁴ Written evidence from Dairy UK (NZT0007)

¹⁵ Written evidence from the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (NZT0012)

¹⁶ Written evidence from the British Veterinary Association (NZT0008)

¹⁷ Written evidence from the National Farmers' Union (NZT0016)

¹⁸ Written evidence from Beef+Lamb New Zealand and the Meat Industry Association (NZT0014)

¹⁹ Written evidence from the RSPCA (NZT0001)

restricting flexibility to export up to the current threshold across all EU Member States and the UK, and eliminated entirely some of the current TRQs, which would lead to high tariff costs for products exported to the UK.²⁰

We also discussed with the High Commissioner the prospect that the UK and New Zealand might seek to agree some seasonal TRQs as a route to protecting some sensitive agricultural products while also achieving the benefits of complementary seasonality between the two countries. The High Commissioner emphasised New Zealand's aim to achieve full liberalisation and that seasonal TRQs limit choice for consumers and reduce the benefits of free trade.²¹

We have received submissions from a number of New Zealand-based producers advocating for the removal of tariffs overall.²² One, Food Frontier, notes that the UK Global Tariff schedule applies a higher tariff to plant-based meat-substitute products than the EU's Common Customs Tariff scheme.²³ The High Commissioner told us that removing tariffs for processed agricultural goods was one way in which innovative food products, such as cultured meat products, could benefit from trade agreements.²⁴

Food Frontier also notes that the existing commodity codes in the tariff schedule are not well adapted to plant-based products, which may derive from a range of plants.²⁵ We note wine and spirits as one sector in which there is capacity for growth in both New Zealand and the UK, building on a trade deal. New Zealand Winegrowers have called for the removal of tariffs in both directions.²⁶ The Government has identified gin, food preparations and chocolate as products on which New Zealand tariffs could be removed to benefit UK producers.²⁷

There is a clear divergence of views about the benefits of broad liberalisation of tariffs for agri-food products, and UK witnesses have highlighted to us specific sensitivities, in particular around dairy, beef and lamb. We would be grateful for an update about how these discussions are proceeding and what steps the Government might take domestically to support UK producers to innovate and adapt in the event of liberalisation being agreed with New Zealand that puts pressure on domestic production.

What priority is the UK Government giving to new and innovative food products, such as cultivated meats, in negotiations on tariffs? Could side-letters to the New Zealand deal provide a mechanism for securing initial political agreement for how to treat such products if and when they come to market?

²⁰ Q 5

²¹ Q 5

²² For example, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (NZT0012) and Fonterra Co-Operative Group (NZT0017) have called for the elimination of dairy tariffs.

²³ Written evidence from Food Frontier (NZT0003)

²⁴ Q 7

²⁵ Written evidence from Food Frontier (NZT0003)

²⁶ Written evidence from New Zealand Winegrowers (NZT0004)

²⁷ Written evidence from the Department for International Trade (NZT0013)

Antimicrobial resistance

Some of our witnesses have called for the UK to use its trade deals, including with New Zealand, to secure commitments from partners to comply with the Codex taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance and to build further opportunities for the UK to export high-quality produce resulting from reduced use of antimicrobials.²⁸

How does the Government see the UK-New Zealand agreement contributing to international efforts to reduce antimicrobial resistance?

Trade in services

We heard from several professional services sectors about the value of enhanced opportunities for business travel, visa quotas, and easier visa processes.²⁹ RIBA called our attention to New Zealand existing expedited visa processing for business travellers from China, Australia, and other international partners, which puts UK-based professionals at a disadvantage.³⁰ Some of our witnesses based in New Zealand also called for greater mobility of skilled labour.³¹

Another area that our witnesses identified as a significant trade barrier for services was the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. For example, we heard from RIBA that this was the biggest non-trade barrier faced by architects, in particular as 85% of UK architectural practices employed fewer than 10 people.³² London Market Group noted, in their sector, that New Zealand was “the ideal model for market access” and that there were no major trade barriers that needed to be addressed, although it also advocated improved mutual recognition of professional qualifications and business travel provisions.³³ We understand that New Zealand is pushing for “meaningful and early outcomes” on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and related issues.³⁴

The Government’s written evidence indicates that it will look to both reduce barriers to business travel and seek to facilitate mutual recognition of professional qualifications. It highlighted in particular possible benefits to the financial services sector and the transportation services sector.³⁵

The High Commissioner’s evidence to us echoed that these were the key points, with visa processes and availability one of the most frequently raised points by stakeholders feeding into

²⁸ Written evidence from National Office of Animal Health (NZA0002) and the British Veterinary Association (NZA0008)

²⁹ Written evidence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (NTZ0006), London Market Group (NZA0009), and the Law Society of Scotland (NZA0018)

³⁰ Written evidence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (NTZ0006)

³¹ Written evidence from Food Frontier (NZA0003) and the New Zealand Winegrowers (NZA0004)

³² Written evidence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (NTZ0006); the Law Society of Scotland (NZA0018) raised similar points regarding the legal industry.

³³ Written evidence from the London Market Group (NZA0009)

³⁴ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

³⁵ Written evidence from the Department for International Trade (NZA0013)

trade consultations. He told us that, in general, New Zealand sought provisions in FTAs that would facilitate and streamline business travel processes to allow businesses to take advantage of the wider opportunities offered by the FTA. In the context of UK negotiations specifically, he noted that many of the professional bodies in the UK and New Zealand already had strong links, including about mutual recognition of professional qualifications, but recognised that there were steps that the two governments could take to help support those professional sectors.³⁶

Can you provide an update on how talks are progressing regarding business travel, improved visa processes, and mutual recognition of professional qualifications? How involved are the professional bodies in both countries in contributing to talks in these areas?

Digital trade

The New Zealand Winegrowers have highlighted the important benefits that could come from digital trade measures, such as provisions on e-authentication and the recognition of e-signatures to smooth trade.³⁷ In its submission, the Government noted that digital trade was a key area for as digitally delivered trade accounted for approximately 20% of total UK trade in goods and services. It highlighted in particular the free flow of data as a key driver, as well as New Zealand's innovation in this area, such as through the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement with Singapore and Chile.³⁸

We asked the High Commissioner about this, and he told us that the two countries' interests were "closely aligned" and could set a "leading precedent" by "establish[ing] a permanent prohibition on charging customs duties on electronic transmissions", setting high privacy standards for customers online, and ensuring the free flow of data across borders.³⁹ We also note that this is one of the areas about which the two Chief Negotiators spoke to UK and New Zealand businesses during the last negotiating round, and we welcome that process of involving and informing stakeholders, and that it is one of the initial focus areas of talks around an SMEs chapter.⁴⁰

We welcome both parties' focus on digital trade, in particular how it can benefit SMEs, as we understand that digital provisions are key enablers across sectors. We note that this has been an area of particular importance for New Zealand in some of its recent agreements.

Do you anticipate that the digital provisions of this bilateral FTA incorporate or build on those in recent ambitious digital trade agreements, such as the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement signed by New Zealand, Chile and Singapore in June this year and entering into force in January 2021? Are there particular

³⁶ Q 9

³⁷ Written Evidence from the New Zealand Winegrowers (NZT0004)

³⁸ Written evidence from the Department for International Trade (NZT0013)

³⁹ Q 4

⁴⁰ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

elements of DEPA that the UK Government would welcome seeing included in a deal with New Zealand?

Environment and climate change

Evidence from some New Zealand producers has highlighted their green credentials. For example, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand has submitted to us that New Zealand produces milk at a lower greenhouse-gas footprint than Ireland, which is in turn one of the EU Member States with the lowest footprints.⁴¹ The High Commissioner, in his evidence to us, noted that there was extensive cooperation between the two countries on improving the sustainability of agriculture, such as tackling nitrate leaching and reducing carbon footprints on dairy farms.⁴²

We would be interested to know how far environmental concerns contribute to the UK Government's thinking about other areas. For example, how much do greenhouse gas emissions during food production feature in the Government's assessment of how or whether to liberalise tariffs?

The Government's evidence has also highlighted the UK's efforts to increase low-emission technology in the automotive sector, noting that New Zealand would be "an excellent market to test out our new capability in these fields as we have a joint ambition to tackle climate change".⁴³ In our report on the UK-Japan deal, we highlighted that more attention should be paid to how trade deals might support environmental goods.⁴⁴ We note that, in the second round of talks, New Zealand presented proposed text on an environment chapter, and that the UK will be providing "further information on its approach" ahead of the next round in January.⁴⁵

We discussed with the High Commissioner how an FTA could facilitate the transition in the UK and New Zealand to a low-carbon economy, and he noted the two countries' shared ambitions for achieving net-zero and New Zealand's involvement in negotiating a multilateral agreement about climate change and sustainability.⁴⁶ We also note that New Zealand is a founding member of the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform group.⁴⁷

How advanced is the Government's development of proposals for a possible environment chapter, and what further issues is it taking into account in refining that position ahead of the next round of talks? What concrete steps does the Government hope a UK-New Zealand FTA might take to support both countries act on environmental and climate change goals, individually and internationally?

⁴¹ Written evidence from the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (NZT0012)

⁴² Q 6

⁴³ Written evidence from the Department for International Trade (NZT0013)

⁴⁴ *UK-Japan CEPA*, para. 116

⁴⁵ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

⁴⁶ Q 3

⁴⁷ <http://fffsr.org/>

Given that increased trade can often lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, for example because of increased transportation of goods between countries, what steps will you be taking in negotiating the agreement to seek provisions that might mitigate those increases and help both countries in their aims to achieve net-zero?

Will the UK be joining New Zealand, and a number of other countries, in pressing to reduce, and ultimately end, fossil fuel subsidies? What provisions could the two countries agree bilaterally to help further that goal?

Intellectual property

Our witnesses have called for an IP chapter with New Zealand to cover a range of areas, including: strict controls on veterinary medicines and a commitment to tackle the illegal supply and trade of both authorised and unauthorised veterinary medicines,⁴⁸ “robust levels” of IP protection across the board,⁴⁹ and a “fair and transparent” process for the mutual recognition of Geographical Indications (GIs) aligned to domestic processes.⁵⁰

Regarding GIs, some witnesses from New Zealand have questioned the EU’s approach and indicated their intention to oppose extended GIs protections within New Zealand through an EU-New Zealand FTA,⁵¹ while other witnesses have criticised New Zealand’s system, noting that New Zealand’s recognition of GIs currently only covers wine and spirits and provides more limited protection even within those categories.⁵² The National Farmers’ Union have told us that the UK should seek to secure further GIs, however, as such protections are currently limited,⁵³ and the Law Society of Scotland has told us that they help to maintain “the reputation and quality” of UK products and “offer a way of preserving traditional industries”.⁵⁴

As part of our scrutiny of the UK-Japan CEPA, Lord Grimstone told us that the “administrative” process for GI approvals that the UK had agreed with Japan was an improvement, in some ways, on the usual process for agreeing GIs through political negotiations. We have also noted in our scrutiny of the UK-Japan CEPA that the domestic process for approval of GIs in Japan allows objections to be raised from CPTPP countries, as well as from within Japan itself.

We have heard from witnesses that securing further GIs through a bilateral deal with New Zealand would be beneficial, including to help preserve “traditional industries”. We would be grateful for an update on how talks in this area are

⁴⁸ Written evidence from National Office of Animal Health (NZT0002)

⁴⁹ Written evidence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (NZT0010)

⁵⁰ Written evidence from the New Zealand Winegrowers (NZT0004)

⁵¹ Written evidence from the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (NZT0012) and Fonterra Co-Operative Group (NZT0017)

⁵² Written evidence from the Law Society of Scotland (NZT0018)

⁵³ Written evidence from the National Farmers’ Union (NZT0016)

⁵⁴ Written evidence from the Law Society of Scotland (NZT0018)

proceeding. Are there any lessons to be learned from CEPA about how the UK should best secure GIs protections for British produce?

More broadly, we have heard about the value of robust IP provisions to the pharmaceutical industry and to the creative industries.⁵⁵ Particular issues raised with us include New Zealand's copyright term (currently 50 years after death, compared to the UK's 70 years after death), the absence of an Artist's Resale Right⁵⁶ in New Zealand, and whether New Zealand's technical protection mechanisms provisions are sufficiently robust to prevent and penalise the circumvention of such mechanisms. The Alliance for Intellectual Property also argues that the UK should press New Zealand to include site-blocking legislation in its laws providing injunctive relief for rights holders.⁵⁷

In its submission, PACT noted that there were "no barriers to trading with New Zealand" that an FTA could address, as the distance and time difference were the principal barrier to co-productions in the audio-visual (AV) sector. On principal, PACT argues that the AV sector should be excluded from all UK trade deals to help protect the UK's existing regime supporting public-service broadcasters and UK producers being able to retain European Works status.⁵⁸

We asked the High Commissioner about what could be achieved in this area. He told us that there was significant convergence in this area already, with both countries party to multilateral agreements such as the TRIPS Agreement.⁵⁹ We note from the summary of the second round published by the New Zealand government that talks on this chapter seem to be less advanced than in some other areas, and that the New Zealand side has been presenting on its trademarks and designs regime.⁶⁰

Could you provide an update on the progress of discussions in this area and where the two sides intend to focus in the third round of negotiations?

Women's economic empowerment

Although we have not taken specific evidence on this point, our recent report on CEPA reflected on the inclusion of such a chapter.⁶¹ Unlike for the Japan talks, the UK Government's published outline objectives include trade and women's economic empowerment, including to: "seek cooperation on [the aim of advancing women's economic empowerment]" and "promote

⁵⁵ Written evidence from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (NZT0010), Design and Artists Copyright Society (NZT0011), the Alliance for Intellectual Property (NZT0015), the British Phonographic Institute (NZT0020), and PACT (NZT0019).

⁵⁶ This is the right for an artist to receive a royalty when their copyright-protected works resell through art market professionals, including galleries, auction houses and dealers.

⁵⁷ Written evidence from the Alliance for Intellectual Property (NZT0015)

⁵⁸ Written evidence from PACT (NZT0019)

⁵⁹ Q 8

⁶⁰ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

⁶¹ UK-Japan CEPA, pp. 23-4

women's ability to access the benefits" of any deal.⁶² We note that New Zealand has, in the second round of talks, presented proposed text for a Trade and Gender chapter for this bilateral agreement, and that the UK will formally respond in the next set of talks in January.⁶³

We would be grateful for clarification about how central this will be as an issue to the UK's trade policy, in negotiations with New Zealand but also across the board. We note that trade and gender chapters in FTAs tend to be of a non-binding and general nature. Do you have any reflections on the sorts of provisions that are most effective in such chapters?

Anti-corruption

In evidence to us, Transparency International UK has called for the UK to use its talks with New Zealand to press for strong enforcement in New Zealand to tackle active bribery internationally by New Zealand businesses. More broadly, it advocated for the UK to use trade talks to "promote adherence" with the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption, and that including such language in a UK-New Zealand deal would "send a clear signal" about the importance of these areas to the UK.⁶⁴

Your most recent Written Ministerial Statement about the New Zealand talks highlights that anti-corruption is one of the areas of discussion. The read-out from the New Zealand on that same round of talks indicates that "the UK provided further context to the provisions that it seeks to include in this chapter" and that engagement continues.⁶⁵

We would be grateful for more detail about how the UK is approaching this topic in negotiations with New Zealand.

Consultation with stakeholders and scrutiny of trade deals

The Law Society of Scotland has cautioned that, since the withdrawal of the previous Government's 2017 White Paper *Preparing for our future UK trade policy*, the Government's approach to Parliament and stakeholders is nowhere defined. It proposes a "whole of governance" model for involving the devolved administrations and stakeholders in the negotiating process.⁶⁶

In launching the new trade agreement with Japan, you publicised a number of comparisons of the UK's system of parliamentary scrutiny of trade deals with other countries', including New Zealand's.⁶⁷ We have also considered the New Zealand, Australian, Canadian and US models as

⁶² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901870/uk-strategy-uk-nz-free-trade-agreement.pdf, p 13

⁶³ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

⁶⁴ Written evidence from Transparency International UK (NZT0021)

⁶⁵ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/UK-NZ-FTA/NZ-UK-FTA-Summary-report-R2.pdf>

⁶⁶ Written evidence from the Law Society of Scotland (NZT0018)

⁶⁷ For example, with a comparative table tweeted by you on 9 October:
<https://twitter.com/trusslizz/status/1314491252956696577?lang=en>

part of our working practices inquiry, culminating in our *Treaty scrutiny: working practices* report, and in our scrutiny of trade negotiations we also look to the Government's negotiating partners to understand how talks are proceeding. In discussion with us on 18 November, the High Commissioner noted New Zealand's vital "feedback loop" on trade with stakeholders of all types through their Trade For All agenda.⁶⁸

Your comparison of parliamentary scrutiny has highlighted that both New Zealand and the UK provide updates to Parliament and the public about negotiating rounds. However, we find that the New Zealand government's summaries of talks,⁶⁹ the latest of which we have referred to throughout this letter, are rather more detailed than those presented to the UK Parliament in Written Ministerial Statements.⁷⁰ For example, we are aware of the specific dates of planned rounds via the New Zealand government's publications, rather than your own Written Ministerial Statements.

While we welcome your enthusiasm for promoting the UK's parliamentary scrutiny processes, we hope that you might consider the New Zealand government's process for updating Parliament and the public on talks in more detail and consider whether any lessons might be learned from them for Government communications in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Sub-Committee

⁶⁸ Q 3

⁶⁹ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/agreements-under-negotiation/new-zealand-united-kingdom-free-trade-agreement/nz-uk-negotiating-rounds/>

⁷⁰ This observation also holds for the UK-Australia talks, where we have found the Australian government's summaries more illuminating. For example, their summary of the second round of talks indicated "differing approaches" on digital and a more detailed list of the topics discussed, including e-authentication, data localisation, and personal information protection (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aukfta/overview-second-negotiating-round>), while your Written Ministerial Statement indicated only "a shared willingness to go even further than CPTPP and consider more ambitious proposals" in this area (<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2020-10-12/hcws504>).

Annex A: Declarations of Members' Interests for the New Zealand trade negotiations inquiry

Lord Foster of Bath

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Fraser of Corriegarth (until 4 September 2020)

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Gold

- *David Gold & Associates LLP*

Lord Goldsmith

- *Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (in this capacity the member advises clients on investor-state disputes from time to time)*

Lord Kerr of Kinlochard

- *Chairman, Centre for European Reform*
- *Deputy Chairman, Scottish Power plc*
- *Member, Scottish Government's Standing Council on Europe*

Lord Lansley

- *No relevant interests*

Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Morris of Aberavon

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Oates

- *Chair, Advisory Committee, Weber Shandwick UK*
- *Director, H&O Communications*
- *Non-Executive Director, Centre for Countering Digital Hate*

Lord Risby (from 4 November 2020)

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Robathan

- *No relevant interests*

The Earl of Sandwich

- *No relevant interests*

Lord Watts

- *No relevant interests*

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords Interests:

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

Annex B: List of written evidence submissions to the New Zealand inquiry, up to 19 November

All written evidence that has been considered by the Committee is published on the Committee's website.⁷¹

NZT0001 – RSPCA
NZT0002 – National Office of Animal Health
NZT0003 – Food Frontier
NZT0004 – New Zealand Winegrowers
NZT0006 – Royal Institute of British Architects
NZT0007 – Dairy UK
NZT0008 – British Veterinary Association
NZT0009 – London Market Group
NZT0010 – Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
NZT0011 – Design and Artists Copyright Society
NZT0012 – Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand
NZT0013 – Department for International Trade
NZT0014 – Beef+Lamb New Zealand and the Meat Industry Association
NZT0015 – Alliance for Intellectual Property
NZT0016 – National Farmers' Union
NZT0017 – Fonterra Co-Operative Group
NZT0018 – Law Society of Scotland
NZT0019 – PACT
NZT0020 – British Phonographic Institute
NZT0021 – Transparency International UK

⁷¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/448/eu-international-agreements-subcommittee/publications/written-evidence/>