



Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Angus,

I am writing to update you and your committee on the fifth round of the UK-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. You will also note the Written Ministerial Statement laid in Parliament today.

A delegation of UK and Canadian officials undertook technical talks in London from 20-24 March. As with previous rounds, this was conducted in a hybrid fashion – a number Canadian officials travelled to London for negotiations, with others attending virtually.

Discussions were held over 29 policy areas over 78 separate sessions. They included detailed draft treaty text discussions in policy areas such as Rules of Origin, Goods Market Access, and Procurement.

Prior to the round, on 13-16 March my counterpart Minister Mary Ng visited London, with a women-owned business delegation. We discussed the negotiations and the wider UK and Canada trade relationship, including the CPTPP negotiations. Discussions covered our respective ambitions for the deal, and we welcomed the progress made so far.

The UK-Canada trade relationship was worth £24.8 billion in the year to Q3 2022. A new and ambitious bilateral deal can strengthen already strong economic links between our two countries, boost the UK economy and bring benefits to UK businesses, and consumers.

The sixth round of negotiations are scheduled to take place in Ottawa in June 2023.

The Government is determined that any agreement must work for consumers, producers, investors, and businesses alike. We further remain committed to upholding our high environmental, labour, public health, food safety and animal welfare standards, alongside protecting the National Health Service.

My department continues to welcome your interest in the Government's FTA programme, and I remain committed to the transparency and scrutiny of new trade deals, while ensuring Committees and all Parliamentarians are appropriately informed.

I would also like to reiterate the commitment made by my department to make the Chief Negotiator and relevant Senior Civil Service experts available to brief the committee in private as negotiations progress. I would be happy to talk to your committee if you feel this would be useful.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kemi Badenoch'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kemi' and the surname 'Badenoch' clearly legible.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for Business and Trade & President of the Board of Trade and
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