



Department for Business & Trade

Nigel Huddleston MP
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Department for Business and Trade

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Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business and Trade Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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4 May 2023

Dear Darren,

In December 2021 the Government signed the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement and in February 2022 the Government signed the UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. The Government has now finalised plans to bring these world-class agreements into force, so that businesses can start to access the benefits.

These deals are tailored to suit the UK's strengths and can grow the size of the UK economy, benefitting nations and regions across the UK. They remove tariffs on 100% of UK goods exports, slash red tape, guarantee access for services and digital trade and make it easier for professionals to live and work in Australia and New Zealand. The deals also bring us closer to two key allies on the global stage – and are instrumental in our tilt towards the growing Indo Pacific region.

The deals do not compromise on the UK's high environment, animal welfare and food safety standards. All imports will continue to need to meet the UK's food safety requirements, and the independent Trade & Agriculture Commission has concluded neither agreement undermines the UK's domestic protections.

On the 5 May 2023 the Prime Minister, alongside Prime Ministers Albanese and Hipkins, will publicly announce that both agreements are intended to enter into force on the 31 May 2023. Once the date has been announced, our priority will be to ensure that businesses and consumers are supported to access the benefits that will materialise once the deals are in force.

Both agreements have undergone formal pre-ratification scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. The Government has also been making the necessary changes to domestic legislation to implement the agreements, including the Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Act which received Royal Assent on the 23 March 2023.

I thank the predecessor to this committee, the International Trade Select Committee (ITSC), for its comprehensive, detailed reports on both agreements and for engaging with the department on a regular basis throughout the ratification process. I look forward to working closely with the new Business and Trade Select Committee.

To help businesses make the most of the fantastic opportunities found in both agreements, we have produced detailed information for business on how to export to Australia and New Zealand under these agreements. You can direct any interested businesses to www.great.gov.uk/markets/australia/ and www.great.gov.uk/markets/new-zealand/.

These sites provide business with cross-cutting, thematic guidance on key elements of the FTA, including rules of origin, tariff rates, and mobility. “Explainer” documents have also been developed for specific sectors, curating the relevant FTA information and the opportunities in the Australia and New Zealand markets, and will be available when the deals come into force and are open for use.

I look forward very much to seeing UK businesses and consumers taking advantage of these deals in the weeks ahead and again thank the Committee for their role in making that happen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nigel Huddleston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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