



Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Darren,

I am writing to update you and your committee on the eighth and ninth round of the UK-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations. You will also note the Joint Outcome Statement issued by the UK and Indian Chief Negotiators which can be found [here](#).

The eighth round UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations took place from 20-31 March. The ninth round took place shortly afterwards, from 24-28 April. As with previous rounds, these rounds were conducted in a hybrid fashion – a number of officials travelled to each other's nations for negotiations and others attended virtually. Detailed talks took place across a range of policy areas.

The UK-India trade relationship was worth £36 billion in 2022. A balanced deal which respects the domestic sensitives of both sides will strengthen the economic links between the UK and India, boosting the UK economy and bringing benefits to UK businesses, families and consumers.

We have provisionally closed seventeen chapters across the FTA, and both sides continue to work towards a modern and comprehensive agreement. We will only sign a deal that is fair, balanced, and ultimately in the best interests of the UK.

Previously, my senior officials have privately briefed the former committee regarding the negotiations. I hope that these sessions continue to support the current committee's work, and reiterate the commitment made by this department to make the Chief Negotiator and relevant Senior Civil Service experts available to brief this committee in private as negotiations progress.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for Business and Trade & President of the Board of Trade and
Minister for Women & Equalities