



Pete Wishart MP
Chair
Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 July 2023

Dear Pete

Thank you for your letter dated 15 June, following our appearance at the Scottish Affairs Committee, as part of your inquiry into Promoting Scotland Internationally.

Regarding Scottish Geographical Indicators (GIs) awaiting protected status in Japan (Q291), when the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into effect on 1 January 2021, it secured protection for seven of the most economically valuable UK GIs from day one. The Department for Business and Trade is having positive discussions with the Government of Japan on completing the process of registering additional UK GIs and adding them to the agreement text. We look forward to seeing progress soon. As these discussions are live, it would be inappropriate to comment on specific timescales.

Regarding training provided to UK embassy staff and Heads of Mission to ensure awareness of Scotland's industry strengths and market (Q321-322), as part of their formal pre-posting training programmes, they receive briefing on priorities for Scotland - from senior representatives from UKG, and via direct engagement with a Scottish Government Director as part of a stand-alone session with the devolved governments. This is a bespoke opportunity for those priorities to be communicated and for Heads to consider how they can effectively promote these when they take up their Post.

Existing Heads of Mission are actively encouraged to undertake visits to Scotland and engage with a range of key stakeholders, including business and trade organisations. DBT's Scotland Trade & Investment team and Scottish Development International (SDI) support visits to Scotland by UK diplomats to engage with industry and provide intelligence on Scotland's export priorities and potential.

Such visits to Scotland in the last 12 months include: the British High Commissioner to India (June 2023); His Majesty's Ambassador (HMA) Buenos Aires (February

2023); HMA Berne (Dec 2022); HMAs Riyadh, Ukmis Geneva (both Sept 2022). His Majesty's Trade Commissioners (HMTc) have also visited and engaged with Scottish stakeholders in the same period: HMTc Europe (July 2022); Deputy HMTc China (August 2022), and Deputy HMTc Latin America and the Caribbean (November 2022).

DBT Scotland regularly take opportunities to brief the UK's overseas network on Scottish trade and investment opportunities.

Scottish Development International (SDI) and Scottish Government officials will commonly and routinely engage with UKG staff at Post both informally, and through formal engagement structures. As examples, SDI is represented in the Country Board at BE Copenhagen; in Berlin, SG officials will participate in cross Network governance discussion and the head of the SG office participates in the monthly heads of office meetings. SDI has a presence in 23 countries and works closely with DBT Teams co-located within UK Missions.

That range of engagement provides ongoing opportunity for evolving Scottish priorities and opportunities to be identified, discussed and responded to.

Yours sincerely,


RT HON ALISTER JACK MP
Secretary of State for Scotland



David Rutley MP
Minister for Americas and the Caribbean



LORD OFFORD OF GARVEL
Minister for Exports



Scottish Affairs Committee

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By email only

15 June 2023

Dear David,

Follow-up from evidence session

Thank you very much for coming before the Committee on Monday afternoon alongside ministerial colleagues for our inquiry on *Promoting Scotland Internationally*. A copy of the transcript for the meeting can be found on our website [here](#). During the session, there were a couple of points put to you by individual Members that you agreed to follow up on in writing, and which we would be grateful to receive a response on:

Firstly, on an update on Scottish GI products awaiting protected status in Japan (Q291);

Secondly, information on the training provided to UK embassy staff and Heads of Missions to ensure awareness of Scotland's industry strengths and market, and the frequency of meetings and updates by which staff are "kept up to date with how the devolved nations are evolving, so that their sectors are promoted" (Q321-322).

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience, or by Monday 3 July.

Yours sincerely

Pete Wishart MP



Scottish Affairs Committee

Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee