



House of Commons
Business and Trade Committee

Scrutiny of free trade agreements

Twelfth Report of Session 2022–23

Report, together with formal minutes relating to the Report

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 11 July 2023*

Business and Trade Committee

The Business and Trade Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Business and Trade.

Current membership

[Darren Jones MP](#) (*Labour, Bristol North West*) (Chair)

[Bim Afolami MP](#) (*Conservative, Hitchin and Harpenden*)

[Alan Brown MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Kilmarnock and Loudoun*)

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Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publication

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Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Matthew Chappell (Committee Operations Manager), Kenneth Fox (Clerk), James Hockaday (Committee Specialist), Catherine Kisanji (Committee Specialist), Catherine Meredith (Second Clerk), Jacob Moreton (Media Officer), Lewis Pickett (Committee Specialist), Delfina Raka (Committee Support Apprentice), David Turner (Committee Specialist), Tim West (Senior Media Officer), Louise Whitley (Senior Committee Specialist) and Sue Wrightman (Committee Operations Officer).

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You can follow the Committee on Twitter using [@CommonsBTC](https://twitter.com/CommonsBTC).

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Introduction

1. On 7 February 2023, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Department for Business and Trade, which would take on certain responsibilities previously held by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.¹ On 27 March 2023, the House agreed to restructure its select committees to reflect these changes. That restructuring took effect on 26 April 2023. As a consequence, we acquired from the now defunct International Trade Committee responsibility for scrutiny of the Government's trade policy, including the negotiation and implementation of free trade agreements (FTAs).
2. This Report sets out our intended approach to scrutiny of prospective new free trade agreements, taking into account the wider Parliamentary framework for scrutiny and the experience of the former International Trade Committee.

1 Cabinet Office, [Making Government Deliver for the British People](#), 7 February 2023

1 Scrutiny framework

3. This Committee operates within a wider framework of scrutiny by Parliament. Other select committees from both Houses play a part in that scrutiny, notably the Lords International Agreements Committee, which examines all treaties that are laid before Parliament under the terms of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 and which considers the Government’s conduct of negotiations with states and other international partners.² Individual departmentally-related select committees in this House will also take an interest: we note for instance the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee’s inquiry into the opportunities and challenges that free trade agreements present for UK food and agriculture, as well as the cumulative impact of those agreements on the agri-food sector.³

4. The House itself has some, albeit limited, recognised opportunities for scrutiny of prospective free trade agreements. Some flow from statutory requirements, others from non-statutory commitments made by the Government.

Statutory requirements

Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010

5. The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act (CRaG) requires the Government to lay before Parliament, for a period of 21 sitting days (the CRaG period), most treaties that require ratification.⁴ During this period, the House of Commons can delay ratification by resolving that the treaty should not be ratified. A Minister may re-lay the same treaty if they are of the opinion that it should nonetheless be ratified; the House then has a further 21 sitting days in which to resolve to the contrary.⁵ Theoretically, the House could continue to vote to delay ratification by an indefinite number of 21-sitting day periods. In practice, the House has never voted to delay ratification of any treaty.

Agriculture Act 2020

6. Certain provisions of the Agriculture Act apply when a post-Brexit free trade agreement “includes measures applicable to trade in agricultural products”.⁶ Such an agreement cannot be laid before Parliament under CRaG until the Secretary of State has made a report that outlines the agreement’s consistency with the UK’s statutory requirements on human, animal or plant life or health, animal welfare, and the environment.⁷ This is colloquially referred to as the “Section 42 report”.

2 International Agreements Committee, [Home Page](#), accessed 10 July 2023

3 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, [UK trade policy: food and agriculture](#), accessed 10 July 2023

4 For the purposes of the Act, a sitting day is a day on which both the Commons and the Lords sit. [Sections 22 and 23](#) of the Act outline exceptions to the requirement for treaties to be laid before Parliament.

5 Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, [Section 20](#)

6 Agriculture Act 2020, [Section 42](#)

7 Agriculture Act 2020, [Section 42](#)

Trade Act 2021

7. The Trade Act requires the Secretary of State to request advice from the independent Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) when preparing a Section 42 report. The TAC's advice must be laid before Parliament before the Secretary of State lays a Section 42 report.⁸ This advice can take several months to prepare.

8. The Trade Act also contains a so far unused provision on free trade agreements and genocide. If the Foreign Affairs Committee publishes a report deeming that there are credible reports of genocide in the territory of a prospective bilateral free trade partner, and if it is not satisfied with the Secretary of State's response, it can set out the wording of a motion to be moved in the House. The Government must make time for debate and vote on that motion.⁹

Non-statutory commitments

9. In addition to the statutory framework, the Government made the following non-statutory commitments on general FTA scrutiny to the International Trade Committee (ITC) and the House of Lords International Agreements Committee (IAC) between May and September 2022:

Pre-negotiations

- “For new FTA negotiations the Government will undertake a public consultation or call for input. This further includes a commitment to publish its response to the consultation/call for input. Similarly, the Government will publish its negotiation objectives as well as a scoping assessment before the start of negotiations”.¹⁰
- The Government “will make senior officials and [the Secretary of State] available to privately discuss prospective negotiations with [the ITC] (and the IAC) prior to negotiations being launched”. The then Secretary of State indicated that this would likely take place during the public consultation period.¹¹
- “Should the IAC, or the ITC publish a report on [the negotiation] objectives, the Government will gladly consider that report and, should it be requested, facilitate a debate on the objectives, subject to the parliamentary time available”.¹²

8 Trade Act 2021, [Part 3](#)

9 Trade Act 2021, [section 3](#); Standing Order No 152L, [House of Commons Standing Orders for Public Business](#)

10 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

11 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 19 July 2022](#)

12 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

During negotiations

- “During new FTA negotiations the Government will publish regular updates — usually after each substantive negotiating round. Where there are no standard negotiating rounds, it will publish updates at regular intervals”.¹³
- “The Government is committed to undertaking close engagement with the relevant select committees, including providing oral and written evidence in public and private. The Chief Negotiator will usually provide private and public evidence, and the Government will make relevant Senior level Civil Service experts available to brief the committees on the technical detail of negotiations, where necessary, in private”.¹⁴

Post signature

- “In the case of new FTAs the Government will publish the FTA, alongside explanatory material and an independently scrutinised Impact Assessment which will cover the economic and environmental impacts of the agreement as soon as reasonably practicable following signature”.¹⁵
- “The Government will also endeavour to share the signed FTA, explanatory material and an independently scrutinised Impact Assessment with the IAC and ITC, in confidence, prior to publication, where time allows”.¹⁶
- “Within two weeks of signing a new FTA [the Secretary of State’s office] will provide [the ITC] with potential dates to meet and we will not trigger CRaG before those dates. This should ensure [the ITC and the Secretary of State] always meet in advance of CRaG commencing”.¹⁷
- “Should the IAC or ITC produce a report on a new FTA and as part of this request a debate, the Government will seek to facilitate this subject to available Parliamentary time”.¹⁸
- “The Government will ensure that the relevant select committees have a reasonable amount of time to scrutinise new FTAs and produce any reports on them that they may wish to prior to the start of the CRaG period”.¹⁹
- “The Government does not envisage a new FTA proceeding to ratification without a debate first having taken place on it, should one have been requested in a timely fashion by the ITC or IAC, subject to available Parliamentary time”.²⁰

13 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

14 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

15 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

16 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

17 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 19 July 2022](#)

18 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

19 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

20 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee, 19 May 2022](#)

- “all significant amendments [to FTAs] will be notified to [the ITC] and the IAC in writing”.²¹
- The Government will provide “quarterly updates to [the ITC’s] clerks on decisions made by committees under a new FTA”.²²
- “[The Secretary of State envisages] there being a period of at least 10 sitting days between publication of the Government’s Section 42 reports and the commencement of CRaG”.²³
- “[The Secretary of State will] set out to [the ITC] an indicative timeline for ratification for each new FTA once it is signed and a timeframe has been agreed with FCDO. This will include indicative timeframes for publishing the advice of the Trade and Agriculture Commission and the Section 42 report, and for commencing CRaG”. The Secretary of State additionally committed to further updates “as specific dates become clearer”.²⁴

21 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 19 July 2022](#)

22 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 19 July 2022](#)

23 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 15 September 2022](#)

24 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee, 15 September 2022](#)

2 Experience

Scrutiny of the Japan agreement

10. The first free trade agreement scrutinised by the International Trade Committee was the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. In recognition of the size of the agreement—1,091 pages—the then Secretary of State for International Trade, the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, made the text of the agreement available to the Committee in confidence for ten sitting days prior to the CRaG period.²⁵ The Committee noted that its scrutiny was reasonably straightforward, given that the text differed from the EU-Japan agreement in “only a few areas”. Nonetheless, the Committee was clear in its Report that its undertaking was “constrained by the limits of both time and resources”.²⁶

Scrutiny of the Australia and New Zealand agreements

11. The following year, on 16 December 2021, the Government signed the UK’s first completely new FTA: the agreement with Australia. An agreement with New Zealand followed on 28 February 2022. The Government committed to making each agreement publicly available for “at least three months” prior to the 21-sitting day CRaG period.²⁷ The Committee’s efforts to scrutinise the Australia and New Zealand agreements were substantial, and largely concurrent, undertakings. For much of the first half of 2022, the Committee was able to inquire into little else, such was the time commitment required in combing through more than 3,000 pages of legal text.

12. We note the dissatisfaction of the former International Trade Committee with the Government’s engagement with its inquiry into the UK-Australia FTA. The former Committee criticised the Government for a lack of transparency over the timetabling of the CRaG period and its refusal to extend that period, and for the difficulty of securing oral evidence from the Secretary of State. The Committee set out its objections in detail in its Second Report of Session 2022–23.²⁸

13. The Committee published its report on the agreement with New Zealand on 24 October 2022. It called for the agreement to be debated during the CRaG period on a substantive motion but did not recommend that Members vote against ratification.²⁹ The Government scheduled a debate during the CRaG period, but on the neutral motion “That this House has considered the Australia and New Zealand trade deals.”³⁰

14. The Committee followed its inquiries into the agreements with Australia and New Zealand with a report titled *UK trade negotiations: Parliamentary scrutiny of free trade agreements*. Amongst other things, the Report called for greater Parliamentary involvement

25 [Correspondence from Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, then Secretary of State for International Trade, to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, then Chair of the International Trade Committee](#), 12 October 2020

26 International Trade Committee, Second Report of Session 2019–21, [UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement](#), HC 914, para 9

27 [Correspondence from Lord Grimstone, then Minister for Investment, to Baroness Hayter, Chair, Lords International Agreements Committee](#), 19 May 2022

28 International Trade Committee, Second Report of Session 2022–23, [UK trade negotiations: Agreement with Australia](#), HC 117, paras 5–8 and Annex 1

29 International Trade Committee, Third Report of Session 2022–23, [UK trade negotiations: Agreement with New Zealand](#), HC 78, paras 11–12

30 HC Deb, 14 November 2022, [cols 410–452](#)

during negotiations, a commitment to meet a “timely” request to debate an agreement during the CRaG period on a substantive motion, and the placing of the Government’s non-statutory commitments on a statutory footing.³¹

Scrutiny of prospective agreements with the CPTPP and the GCC

15. The International Trade Committee adopted a different approach to scrutiny of the UK’s accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and prospective agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). At the time of that Committee’s inquiries, neither negotiation had yielded a final text for scrutiny by the Committee. Instead, the Committee held a series of evidence sessions under each inquiry which focused on a set of clearly defined themes.³² In our opinion, the two reports which resulted succeeded in distilling key issues for the House’s attention, thereby equipping it well for any debate which might take place. We note that this was achieved without an excessive demand on the Committee’s time and resources, and that the Committee had time in its programme to consider other non-FTA work while these inquiries were under way.

16. **The International Trade Committee’s textual scrutiny of the agreements with Japan, Australia and New Zealand set a high bar, but it also came at a cost: the work was so resource-heavy that the Committee was unable to undertake any meaningful examination of the other functions of the Department for International Trade. The targeted, thematic examinations of the prospective agreements with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were conducted before the final texts of the agreements had been negotiated. The confinement of each inquiry to a few key topics may have lacked the rigour of close textual scrutiny, but it was less resource intensive; and we believe that the reports which resulted meet the House’s needs in informing debate on broader policy issues.**

31 International Trade Committee, Fourth Report of Session 2022–23, [UK trade negotiations: Parliamentary scrutiny of free trade agreements](#), HC 815, pages 22–26

32 International Trade Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2022–23, [CPTPP: opportunities and challenges for the UK](#), HC 13, paras 3–4; International Trade Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2022–23, [Free Trade Agreement Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council](#), HC 79, para 6

3 Expectations

17. We take seriously our responsibility to examine on behalf of the House the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Business and Trade. However, we operate within finite resources and recognise that attempting exhaustively to scrutinise every aspect of the Department's work is impractical. To best serve the House, we must choose our work with care and with regard to political interest. We intend, therefore, to adopt a case-by-case approach to scrutiny of prospective free trade agreements in future.

18. When inquiring into a prospective free trade agreement, we intend to adopt the International Trade Committee's targeted, thematic model, to examine the Government's negotiating objectives. In most cases, we would expect to publish a report setting out our assessment of the implications of a proposed agreement, and to seek a debate on those negotiating objectives. That approach would offer a chance for the Committee—or indeed the House—to influence the content of free trade agreements. We believe that would be more productive than exhaustive textual scrutiny of an agreement that has been finalised and signed, and when no scope for influence or manoeuvre remains.

19. We would not normally expect to conduct detailed textual scrutiny of signed agreements, although we would welcome written submissions drawing attention to possible flaws or inherent risks in agreed texts. Our focus would instead be on whether any concerns which we might have raised in a report on negotiating objectives had been addressed. If they had not, and if we considered those concerns to be so severe that the agreement ought not to be ratified, we would make that recommendation in a further report to the House and would ask the Government to make time for a debate on a substantive motion during the CRaG period. There may be other circumstances in which we would press for a debate on an agreement during the CRaG period. In most such cases, we would expect a debate to take place on a neutral motion.

20. We are mindful of the International Trade Committee's dissatisfaction with both the statutory framework underpinning Parliamentary scrutiny of free trade agreements and some of the complementary non-statutory commitments. However, we wish to test the arrangements which we have set out above before offering any substantive commentary on wider reform.

21. This Report is addressed to the House. It requires no response from the Government or from any other body.

Conclusions and recommendations

Experience

1. The International Trade Committee's textual scrutiny of the agreements with Japan, Australia and New Zealand set a high bar, but it also came at a cost: the work was so resource-heavy that the Committee was unable to undertake any meaningful examination of the other functions of the Department for International Trade. The targeted, thematic examinations of the prospective agreements with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were conducted before the final texts of the agreements had been negotiated. The confinement of each inquiry to a few key topics may have lacked the rigour of close textual scrutiny, but it was less resource intensive; and we believe that the reports which resulted meet the House's needs in informing debate on broader policy issues. (Paragraph 16)

Expectations

2. We take seriously our responsibility to examine on behalf of the House the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Business and Trade. However, we operate within finite resources and recognise that attempting exhaustively to scrutinise every aspect of the Department's work is impractical. To best serve the House, we must choose our work with care and with regard to political interest. We intend, therefore, to adopt a case-by-case approach to scrutiny of prospective free trade agreements in future. (Paragraph 17)
3. When inquiring into a prospective free trade agreement, we intend to adopt the International Trade Committee's targeted, thematic model, to examine the Government's negotiating objectives. In most cases, we would expect to publish a report setting out our assessment of the implications of a proposed agreement, and to seek a debate on those negotiating objectives. That approach would offer a chance for the Committee—or indeed the House—to influence the content of free trade agreements. We believe that would be more productive than exhaustive textual scrutiny of an agreement that has been finalised and signed, and when no scope for influence or manoeuvre remains. (Paragraph 18)
4. We would not normally expect to conduct detailed textual scrutiny of signed agreements, although we would welcome written submissions drawing attention to possible flaws or inherent risks in agreed texts. Our focus would instead be on whether any concerns which we might have raised in a report on negotiating objectives had been addressed. If they had not, and if we considered those concerns to be so severe that the agreement ought not to be ratified, we would make that recommendation in a further report to the House and would ask the Government to make time for a debate on a substantive motion during the CRaG period. There may be other circumstances in which we would press for a debate on an agreement during the CRaG period. In most such cases, we would expect a debate to take place on a neutral motion. (Paragraph 19)

5. We are mindful of the International Trade Committee's dissatisfaction with both the statutory framework underpinning Parliamentary scrutiny of free trade agreements and some of the complementary non-statutory commitments. However, we wish to test the arrangements which we have set out above before offering any substantive commentary on wider reform. (Paragraph 20)

Formal minutes

Tuesday 11 July 2023

Members present:

Darren Jones, in the Chair

Alan Brown

Jonathan Gullis

Ian Lavery

Anthony Mangnall

Andy McDonald

Draft Report (*Scrutiny of free trade agreements*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 21 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Twelfth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 July at 9:45am]

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Session 2022–23

Number	Title	Reference
1st	Pre-appointment hearing with the Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority	HC 523
2nd	Draft Legislative Reform (Provision of Information etc. relating to disabilities) Order 2022	HC 522
3rd	Energy pricing and the future of the Energy Market	HC 236
4th	Post-pandemic economic growth: state aid and post-Brexit competition policy	HC 759
5th	The semiconductor industry in the UK	HC 291
6th	The semiconductor industry in the UK: Government response	HC 1115
7th	Royal Mail	HC 1045
8th	Memorandum of Understanding on scrutiny of the Investment Security Unit	HC 1235
9th	UK plc	HC 1120
10th	Post-pandemic economic growth: UK labour markets	HC 306
11th	Decarbonisation of the power sector	HC 283
1st Special	Decarbonising heat in homes: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of 2021–22	HC 208
2nd Special	Energy pricing and the future of the energy market: Responses to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2022–23	HC 761
3rd Special	Post pandemic economic growth: State aid and post-Brexit competition policy: Responses to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2022–23	HC 1078
4th Special	Revised (Draft) National Policy Statement for Energy: Government response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2021–22	HC 1299
5th Special	State aid and post-Brexit competition policy: Office for the Internal Market response to the Committee's Fourth Report	HC 1302
6th Special	The semiconductor industry in the UK: Further Government response to the BEIS Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2022–23	HC 1404
7th Special	Royal Mail: Responses to the BEIS Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2022–23	HC 1391

Number	Title	Reference
8th Special	UK trade negotiations: Agreement with India: Government response to the International Trade Committee's Fifth Report	HC 1584
9th Special	CPTPP: opportunities and challenges for the UK: Government response to the International Trade Committee's Sixth Report	HC 1614
10th Special	Free Trade Agreement Negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council: Government response to the International Trade Committee's Seventh Report	HC 1626

Session 2021–22

Number	Title	Reference
1st	Post-pandemic economic growth: Industrial policy in the UK	HC 385
2nd	Climate Assembly UK: where are we now?	HC 546
3rd	Post-pandemic economic growth: Levelling up	HC 566
4th	Liberty Steel and the future of the UK steel Industry	HC 821
5th	Pre-legislative scrutiny: draft Downstream Oil Resilience Bill	HC 820
6th	Pre-appointment hearing of the Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the Financial Reporting Council	HC 1079
7th	Decarbonising heat in homes	HC 1038
8th	Post Office and Horizon - Compensation: interim report	HC 1129
9th	Revised (Draft) National Policy Statement for Energy	HC 1151
10th	Draft Legislative Reform (Renewal of National Radio Multiplex Licences) Order 2022	HC 1199
1st Special	Decarbonising heat in homes: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of 2021–22	HC 208
2nd Special	Net Zero and UN Climate Summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26—interim report: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2019–21	HC 120
3rd Special	Uyghur forced labour in Xinjiang and UK value chains: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2019–21	HC 241
4th Special	Mineworkers' Pension Scheme: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2019–21	HC 386
5th Special	Climate Assembly UK: where are we now?: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report	HC 680
6th Special	Post-pandemic economic growth: Industrial policy in the UK: Government Response to the Committee's First Report	HC 71
7th Special	Post-pandemic economic growth: Levelling up: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report	HC 924
8th Special	Liberty Steel and the Future of the UK Steel Industry: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report	HC 1123

Number	Title	Reference
9th Special	Pre-legislative scrutiny: draft Downstream Oil Resilience Bill. Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report	HC 1177
10th Special	Post Office and Horizon – Compensation: interim report. Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report	HC 1267

Session 2019–21

Number	Title	Reference
1st	My BEIS inquiry: proposals from the public	HC 612
2nd	The impact of Coronavirus on businesses and workers: interim pre-Budget report	HC 1264
3rd	Net Zero and UN Climate Summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26 – interim report	HC 1265
4th	Pre-appointment hearing with the Government's preferred candidate for the Chair of the Regulatory Policy Committee	HC 1271
5th	Uyghur forced labour in Xinjiang and UK value chains	HC 1272
6th	Mineworkers' Pension Scheme	HC 1346
1st Special	Automation and the future of work: Government Response to the Committee's Twenty-third Report of Session 2017–19	HC 240
2nd Special	Future of the Post Office Network: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2019	HC 382
3rd Special	Safety of Electrical Goods in the UK: follow-up: Government Response to the Committee's second report of Session 2019	HC 494
4th Special	COP26: Principles and priorities—a POST survey of expert views	HC 1000