



Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Darren,

I am writing to inform you that the United Kingdom officially signed its Accession Protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) at a meeting of the CPTPP Commission in New Zealand on Sunday 16th July.

The UK's Accession

Accession to the CPTPP will secure the UK's place as the second largest economy in a network of countries committed to free and rules-based trade. It will generate long-term benefits for both the UK and CPTPP members, supporting UK jobs and providing opportunities for growth across the UK, with all parts of the country expected to benefit. Amongst a range of other benefits, it will also give the UK access to trade deals with Malaysia and Brunei for the first time, opening up markets worth £330 billion and £13 billion respectively to UK businesses. It is a modern, progressive, agreement which plays to British strengths and unlocks new opportunities across a range of sectors. As the first acceding country we have also placed ourselves in an ideal position to benefit from future expansion of the agreement, with many other economies having expressed interest in joining.

Throughout negotiations the UK's high standards have been protected. We have ensured that joining will not compromise our high animal and plant health, food safety or animal welfare standards. We have also maintained our right to regulate in the public interest, including in areas such as the environment and labour standards. Furthermore, we ensured that the NHS was kept off the table throughout the course of discussions, as in all of our trade negotiations.

Next Steps

Today, the Government will present to Parliament the agreement texts, including market access schedules, alongside a draft Explanatory Memorandum and Impact Assessment.

The agreement texts and accompanying documents are being presented to Parliament for information purposes at this stage, to support pre-ratification scrutiny by Parliament of the agreement. We will not commence the formal pre-ratification process under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act (CRaG) 2010 for at least three months to ensure there is extended

time for your Committee – and the Lords International Agreement Committee – to consider the agreement.

Attached separately are the Accession Protocol and related market access schedules, as well as relevant side letters. Also attached are the Impact Assessment and the draft explanatory memorandum.

I am also writing to the independent Trade and Agriculture Commission to commission their advice on the agreement. The department will publish its own report under Section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020 (“S42 Report”) thereafter.

Legislation necessary to implement the agreement will be brought forward, and duly scrutinised by Parliament, when Parliamentary time allows. I will keep you informed as the legislative timetable – and indeed detailed dates for other key milestones such as the commencement of CRaG – are firmed up.

My department would be happy to discuss the agreement with your Committee and would like to offer a session with Chief Negotiator Graham Zebedee. Our offices are standing by to work with your Clerks to identify an appropriate time should you wish to take up this offer. In addition, should you wish to take evidence from Ministers, then my team or I would be happy to appear before your Committee to discuss the deal, at a mutually convenient time.

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

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