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Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons
London
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16 December 2020

Dear Darren,

Amending Protocol to UK-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA)

In February 2019, my Department informed the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee of an Exchange of Notes that had been signed with the Government of Japan in relation to our existing bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) from 1998. These Notes are intended to be a temporary solution that will come into force when European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) arrangements cease to apply in the UK and will remain in force until a more formal Amending Protocol to the 1998 NCA is agreed and brought into force.

I am now pleased to inform you that on 16 December, 2020, the UK signed an Amending Protocol with the Government of Japan with regards to the 1998 NCA.

The Amending Protocol makes minor policy changes to the 1998 NCA and ensures the continuation of the mutually beneficial relationship between the UK and Japan in terms of civil nuclear trade and cooperation. These amendments:

- Confirm how the existing terms of the 1998 agreement between the UK and Japan will operate in the context of the UK's departure from the Euratom treaty and the UK's transition to a new domestic safeguards regime;
- Ensure continuity with the 2008 Euratom-Japan NCA; and
- Highlight the UK and Japan's ambition to expand and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, meeting modern standards of best practice.

As an Amending Protocol, the agreement must follow the parliamentary ratification process set out in the *Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010*. Pursuant to this requirement, a copy of the agreement will be laid before Parliament in due course.

As previously stated, the UK already has all of the international agreements and arrangements it requires to ensure that civil nuclear trade with international partners can continue when Euratom arrangements cease to apply to and in the UK at the end of the transition period. In 2018, the UK signed three bilateral NCAs (Australia, Canada and the US) and two nuclear safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This Amending Protocol therefore marks another significant milestone in the UK's preparations for nuclear cooperation after the end of the transition period and affirms the importance the Government has placed on leading and influencing the debate on non-proliferation.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth