



Women and Equalities Committee

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade,
and Minister for Women and Equalities
By email

27 September 2023

Dear Kemi,

Gulf Co-operation Council Trade Agreement

I am writing to you in respect of the Government's negotiations to sign a new free trade agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council.

As you will be aware from our letter of 7 December 2022, my Committee is interested in how any such agreement will take into account issues relating to human rights, gender equality and women's economic empowerment. We intend to scrutinise the final deal with these matters in mind.

In order to facilitate this, I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions:

- What the timetable is for completing negotiations on the deal;
- What, if any, commitments the Government has requested on human rights, gender equality and women's economic empowerment;
- Whether the Government will provide an impact assessment on these issues.

In the event that the Government's position on these issues has not been finalised, we would ask that you keep us updated on any developments and provide the answers to the final two questions in advance of the signature of any new deal.

We have copied this letter to the House of Commons Business and Trade Committee and the House of Lords International Agreements Committee.



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Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline".

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee