



Department for Business & Trade

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10 November 2023

Dear Liam,

Signature of Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the state of Florida in the United States of America

I am writing to give you notice of our intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on trade and economic cooperation with the US state of Florida. The MoU builds on our strong pre-existing engagement with Florida and will be the seventh such MoU between the UK and a US state.

I enclose a confidential near-final draft copy of the MoU, which we plan to sign in Jacksonville, Florida on 14 November. This draft is strictly embargoed and must not enter the public domain. MoU text is subject to non-substantive changes pursuant to concluding discussions with Florida. The final version will be published on gov.uk following signature. Lord Johnson is writing in similar terms to Lord Goldsmith, the Chair of the International Agreements Committee.

A tool for economic cooperation

MoUs are one of the tools we are deploying to strengthen our trading relationships with US states, as we seek to unlock opportunities for UK businesses to export and attract investment. Our MoU with Florida is a non-legally binding arrangement, which will create a framework for enhanced economic cooperation.

Benefits of the MoU

The MoU seeks to strengthen the UK's trading relationship with Florida, which is already significant: Florida imported £2.2bn of goods from the UK and exported £3.1bn of goods to the UK in 2022.

The objectives of the UK-Florida MoU include increasing bilateral trade and investment, identifying and addressing barriers to trade, investment, and economic cooperation, fostering innovation, and strengthening academic and research ties.

The MoU specifies priority areas for cooperation including space, fintech, life sciences, supply chains, transport, infrastructure, legal services, agricultural biotechnology, and other emerging and innovative areas such as artificial intelligence and semiconductors. It also contains provisions to support increased participation in government procurement markets and resolution of market access barriers, including recognition of professional qualifications. The MoU establishes an annual working group to coordinate delivery of MoU activities.

Future MoUs

Our work at state level is key to our trade objectives in the United States, and we look forward to making continued progress – building on the interest generated by our previous MoUs. We are in discussion with other states and expect to sign further MoUs soon. I will write to you in advance of concluding similar arrangements.

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

Secretary of State for Business and Trade & President of the Board of Trade and
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