



Department for International Trade

Ranil Jayawardena MP
Minister for International Trade

King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E jayawardena.correspondence@trade.gov.uk
W gov.uk

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair of the International Trade Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

22nd December 2020

Dear Angus,

Check for barriers to trading and investing abroad service

I am writing to inform you of a new digital service that my Department has launched on GOV.UK to help businesses identify and overcome trade barriers in overseas markets. To be clear at the outset, this work is unrelated to our exit from the transition period or our departure from the EU – rather, it is a product of our active and ambitious market access activity.

The [‘Check for barriers to trading and investing abroad’](#) service allows users to search for information on trade barriers imposed by other countries that could impede their ability to trade and invest there. Businesses are able to see where barriers have been removed too, signalling new potential trade opportunities and growth areas.

My Department’s market access activity continues all year round, quietly and carefully, under-the-radar, seeking to reduce tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers (NTBs), overseas direct investment (ODI) restrictions, and other unnecessary – or out of date – requirements that can prevent or slow trade activity, making it more costly for British companies to do business internationally. Tackling these barriers is key to HM Government’s value-generating and values-led trade policy and has the potential to add billions of pounds to the British economy through increased trade opportunities.

We have made good progress with this work, which we are delivering in concert with securing trade agreements. In the last financial year, we have harnessed our bilateral relationships to support businesses across the United Kingdom by fully or partially resolving 175 barriers across 61 countries, from helping Scottish fisherman with exports to Brazil, to making it easier for sports nutrition bar producers in the Midlands to export to the United Arab Emirates!

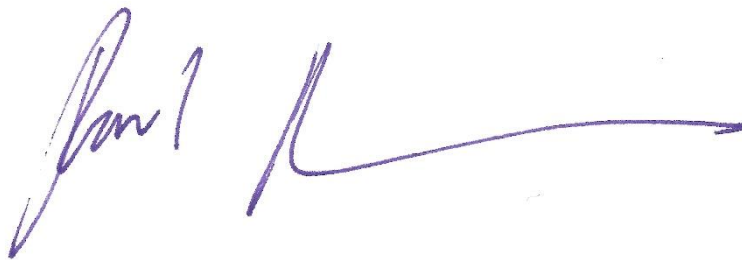
The new service is the latest investment from my Department in digital tools to support British businesses reach global markets. It joins the existing ‘Report a trade barrier’ and ‘Check how to export goods’ services on GOV.UK, to form a complementary suite of digital tools containing information to assist businesses with their trade and investment decisions. Taken together, the services supplant EU digital services open to British companies until the end of the Transition Period, with an improved offer to British businesses – as it has been created for them specifically, with information that is more responsive to their needs.

Sharing information on barriers is helpful to British businesses, whatever the trading context, and is an important part of the support my Department can provide. Barrier information on the service will be regularly updated and added to by our market access specialists, who work across HM Government and the overseas network to deliver our ambitious market access policy.

I will be placing copies of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP
Minister for International Trade