



Department for
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9th February 2024

Dear

Liam,

Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership: Section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG)

On 17 July 2023, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade wrote to your Committee to confirm that the Government had signed its Accession Protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill was subsequently introduced in the House of Lords on 8 November 2023 and was introduced in the House of Commons on 24 January 2024. We look forward to its continued passage through Parliament.

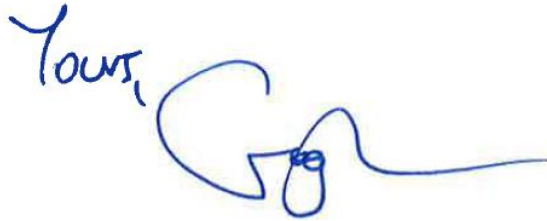
Since the deal was signed, the Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC)'s independent advice on whether measures in the agreement are consistent with the maintenance of certain UK levels of statutory protection was published on 7 December 2023. The Government also published a report pursuant to Section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020 on 11 January 2024 explaining whether the Accession Protocol is consistent with the maintenance of UK levels of statutory protection in relation to human, animal or plant life or health, animal welfare, and the environment.

I am now writing to inform you, confidentially, that the Government intends to lay the Accession Protocol in Parliament for scrutiny under section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 on 19 February.

This Government is committed to transparency and we have worked hard to ensure that robust scrutiny of the deal can take place. We published the Accession Protocol and associated material (including an Impact Assessment) once it was signed, and ensured the full CPTPP text is easily accessible online. These documents have now been available to review via gov.uk for six months.

Our timetable meets the Government's commitment to trigger CRaG at least 10 days after the publication of the Section 42 report, as well as allowing your Committee to publish your report, which we look forward to receiving. I also would like to reiterate the Government's commitment to seeking time for a debate, which I know you discussed with the Secretary of State at her recent evidence session.

Thank you for your engagement, and I look forward to keeping you updated on progress with our CPTPP ratification.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the word 'Yours,' followed by a stylized, cursive signature that appears to be 'G Hands'.

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Minister for London
Department for Business and Trade