



Department for Business & Trade

Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE
**Minister for Investment and Minister for
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Dear Peter,

I am writing to update you and your Committee on the sixth round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the UK and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). A Written Ministerial Statement will be laid in the House today.

The sixth round of negotiations for an FTA between the UK and the GCC took place between the 29 January and 9 February.

The round was hosted in London and held in a hybrid fashion. A number of GCC negotiators travelled to London for in-person discussions with others attending virtually.

Draft treaty text was advanced across the majority of chapters. Technical discussions were held across 21 policy areas over 30 sessions. Good progress was made and both sides remain committed to securing an ambitious, comprehensive and modern agreement fit for the 21st century. The next round of negotiations will be scheduled shortly.

An FTA will be a substantial economic opportunity and a significant moment in the UK-GCC relationship. Total trade was worth £61.5 billion according to latest figures.

His Majesty's Government remains clear that any deal signed will be in the best interests of the British people and the United Kingdom economy. We will not compromise on our high environmental, public health, animal welfare and food standards, and we will maintain our right to regulate in the public interest. We are also clear that during these negotiations, the National Health Service and the services it provides is not on the table.

I will continue to update you and your Committee as these negotiations progress. In this manner our Chief Negotiator stands ready to privately brief the Committee about the good progress made during UK-GCC FTA negotiations, particularly in specific chapters.

My Department and I are committed to being transparent and keeping Parliament appropriately updated on our ambitious trade agenda.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Johnson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE
Minister for Investment and Minister for Regulatory Reform
Department for Business and Trade