



**The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP**  
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP  
Chair of the Business and Trade Committee  
House of Commons

Our Ref: PM/NMP3911  
14th March 2024

Dear Liam,

**Debate on the UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for  
Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting a debate on the ratification of the Accession Protocol to CPTPP within the CRaG period.

The Government recognises the importance of free trade agreements receiving thorough scrutiny and the CRaG process provides Parliament with this opportunity. We have sought to provide for scrutiny through the passage of the Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill, which is intrinsically linked to the Accession Protocol.

The Government's commitment to holding debates during the CRaG process is subject to the request being made in a timely manner and parliamentary time being available. As I am sure you will appreciate, there are a range of competing demands for time in the Chamber and there is, as always, pressure on the Government's timetable this session.

While it has not been possible to find time for a debate in Government time, the House will still have the opportunity to debate and scrutinise the Accession Protocol as the Bill continues its passage through the House. I have announced that the Report Stage of the Bill will take place on the 19th March, which will provide Members with an opportunity to discuss these matters ahead of the conclusion of the CRaG period.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

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