



Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE
Minister for Investment and Minister for Regulatory Reform
Department for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building, Admiralty Place
London SW1A 2DY

16 April 2024

Dear Lord Johnson,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 March informing us of the launch of the formal negotiations on an upgraded Free Trade Agreement with Turkey. The letter states the UK's intention to "continue to uphold its high environmental, labour, food safety and animal welfare standards" through the trade agreement with Turkey. However, we are concerned that no reference is made to human rights in your letter. This is despite the concerns highlighted to the Government, as outlined in the Government's Strategic Approach document, about human rights issues in the region. The Strategic Approach document is clear that stakeholders believe that trade should not come at the expense of human rights.

We would be grateful if you could provide assurances that human rights obligations will be upheld as an integral part of the negotiations with Turkey.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Our Committee Clerk Rhiannon Williams may be contacted on 02072 194585 or williamsrb@parliament.uk

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith KC

Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee