



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Minister of State
Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

The Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair, EU International Agreements Sub-Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

16 December 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

Amending Protocol to UK-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA)

I am pleased to inform you that the United Kingdom has signed an Amending Protocol with the Government of Japan that relates to our existing bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) from 1998.

The Amending Protocol makes minor policy changes to the 1998 NCA and ensures the continuation of the mutually beneficial relationship between the UK and Japan in terms of civil nuclear trade and cooperation. More specifically, these amendments:

- Confirm how the existing terms of the 1998 agreement between the UK and Japan will operate in the context of the UK's departure from the Euratom treaty and the UK's transition to a new domestic safeguards regime;
- Ensure continuity with the 2008 European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) - Japan NCA;
- Highlight the UK and Japan's ambition to expand and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, meeting modern standards of best practice.

As an Amending Protocol, the agreement must follow the parliamentary ratification process set out in the *Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010*. Pursuant to this requirement, a copy of the agreement will be laid before Parliament in due course.

This development follows an Exchange of Notes that was previously signed with the Government of Japan in February 2019 with regards to the 1998 NCA. These Notes are intended to be a temporary solution that will come into force when European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) arrangements cease to apply in the UK and will remain in force until a more formal Amending Protocol to the 1998 NCA is agreed and brought into force. The previous EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee were made aware of these developments.

As previously stated, when these Exchange of Notes were signed, the UK then had all of the international agreements it required to ensure that civil nuclear trade with international partners can continue when Euratom arrangements cease to apply to and in the UK at the end of the transition period. In 2018, the UK signed three bilateral NCAs (Australia, Canada

and the US) and two nuclear safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This Amending Protocol therefore marks another significant milestone in the UK's preparations for nuclear cooperation after the end of the transition period and affirms the importance the Government has placed on leading and influencing the debate on non-proliferation.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP

Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth