

The Clerk of the Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

T: +44 (0) 020 4551 0011

E: Alexander.Correspondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/dbt

28 August 2024

Dear Clerk,

UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership – Entry into Force

I am writing to inform you that following Peru's ratification of the UK's Accession Protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on 28 August, the agreement is set to enter into force for the UK by 15 December 2024.

The Accession Protocol sets out that the agreement will enter into force for the UK 60 days after all Parties and the UK have each notified the CPTPP Depositary. Notification would follow the completion of relevant domestic procedures. However, after 15 months have passed since signature (which falls in mid-October 2024), the mechanism changes and the Protocol can enter into force 60 days after a minimum of six Parties and the UK have each notified. If at least 6 Parties and the UK have already notified within 15 months of signature, entry into force would take place 60 days after the October date. Given Peru is the sixth Party to notify their ratification, we currently expect the UK's accession to CPTPP to enter into force by 15 December 2024.

Before Peru, five other CPTPP Parties had already ratified the terms of the UK's accession, including Japan, Singapore, Chile, New Zealand and Viet Nam. This means that the agreement will come into force between the UK and those Parties by the end of the year, and with other Parties depending on when they ratify. The UK continues to work closely with remaining Parties, who are completing their own processes as quickly as possible.

My Department is helping British businesses ready themselves to take full advantage of the opportunities CPTPP presents. As the first country to accede to this agreement, the UK will be perfectly positioned to shape its future development, from influencing the future development of the CPTPP rulebook to championing the group's expansion to new economies.

I thank the committee for its engagement in our accession.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" and the last name "Alexander" clearly distinguishable.

THE RT HON DOUGLAS ALEXANDER MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security
Department for Business and Trade