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13 December 2024

Dear Peter,

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

I am pleased to confirm that the UK will officially accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) this Sunday, 15 December. The Agreement will enter into force on this date between the UK and Japan, Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, Vietnam, Peru, Malaysia and Brunei, as these countries ratified the terms of the UK's accession by the initial deadline set out in the UK's accession agreement. Australia also ratified our accession on 25 October 2024, which means the agreement will enter into force with them on 24 December 2024. We will continue to work with Canada and Mexico to ratify the terms of the UK's accession.

Practical Guidance for UK Businesses

With the entry into force of CPTPP in the UK, the Government is committed to ensuring UK businesses are prepared to take full advantage of the deal. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) is helping UK businesses by providing them with the tools and knowledge they need to prepare for the changes, as well as raising awareness of the agreement itself, and the commercial opportunities afforded to them in these markets by CPTPP. DBT is continuing to support businesses on their exporting journey, helping them to increase their exports and ultimately grow their business.

A key part of this support is the creation of a range of practical guides for businesses, particularly SMEs, on the provisions of CPTPP. The guidance will be available online at GREAT.gov.uk on the individual market pages for most countries with which the agreement is in force. This guidance will cover key areas such as rules of origin, preferential tariffs, and digital trade, as well as guidance on specific sectors such as food and drink, financial services and energy.

We also encourage businesses to use the [online tariff checker tool \(CHEG\)](#) which will include CPTPP tariffs from 15 December which can be used to search for all preferential tariffs available when exporting their specific product.

Colleagues from right across the UK – and the globe – are undertaking extensive engagement as a core part of this work to reach as many businesses as possible, including meeting regularly with businesses, from SMEs to larger corporates, and their representatives to discuss their interest. For example, during International Trade Week 2024, DBT hosted or spoke at 10 events covering CPTPP alongside partner organisations such as Made in Britain, Santander, and the Chartered Institute of Exports and International Trade. Earlier this month, DBT and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office hosted a joint business reception to mark the upcoming entry into force of CPTPP. The reception showcased UK businesses trading with all CPTPP markets and was attended by businesses and foreign diplomats.

There will be a continued focus in the first 100 days of the agreement being in force to deliver practical support in utilising the agreement, including through workshops and webinars. We will carry on meeting with businesses to discuss how the agreement is working in practice, giving them a platform to voice any concerns, share their successes, and raise any market access barriers they may be facing.

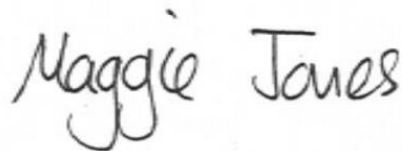
Additionally, the DBT export ecosystem is always available to support UK businesses. Resources available include a variety of export guidance, the [Export Academy](#) and [online digital enquiry service](#). I kindly request that you consider sharing these resources with your network to ensure businesses across the UK can take full advantage of this deal.

The UK is entering a new era of global trade and, through CPTPP, businesses will have improved access to a market of over 500 million people once all CPTPP Parties have ratified our accession. This milestone celebrates the UK's deepening ties with some of the world's largest economies, now and in the future. The UK's accession sends a powerful message about this nation's commitment to free and open trade, and to the rules-based international system.

The Department's Trade Strategy will be published in Spring 2025 and will provide further detail on this Government's vision for trade. Flowing from the Industrial Strategy and Small Business Strategy, the Trade Strategy will create a coherent vision for economic growth both at home and abroad.

I thank the Committee for its continued engagement on CPTPP.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Legislation)
Department for Business and Trade