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The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
[By email]

17 November 2025

Dear Liam,

We are jointly writing in response to the Committee's letter of 23 October 2025 regarding the UK–India trade deal. We focus on the Committee's questions relating to the Free Trade Agreement, formally known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), and the Treasury is writing separately to address the Committee's questions relating to the Double Contributions Convention (or DCC), which will be a separate international treaty.

Alignment with Immigration Objectives

- 1. Are Ministers content that the visa commitments within the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) remain consistent with the UK strategic objective to "preserve the integrity of the UK's points-based immigration system"?*

All commitments undertaken in the UK's Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with respect to business mobility are compatible with our immigration system and consistent with our ability to maintain the integrity and security of the UK border. Indeed, we reserve the right to regulate the temporary entry and stay of those covered by our trade commitments within the text of the India FTA, as we do in our other trade agreements.

- 2. Could the Government provide data on the number of individuals entering the UK on short-term business mobility routes, disaggregated by sector and country of origin, and indicate which categories account for the largest shares?*

Please refer to Annex A for the data requested, noting that the Global Business Mobility (GBM) routes are the short-term business mobility routes which the Committee refers to. In CETA, we have taken commitments on several business categories to facilitate the entry and temporary stay of natural persons of India, including:

- intra-corporate transferees – implemented via the Senior or Specialist Worker route,
- contractual service suppliers – implemented via the Service Supplier route,
- independent professionals – implemented via the Service Supplier route, and
- investors – implemented via the UK Expansion Worker route.

It should be noted that we do not take trade commitments on the Secondment Worker route, though have included for completeness of records for GBM data.

The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas, including Global Business Mobility routes, in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

- Data on entry clearance visa outcomes by nationality are published in table 'Vis_D02' of the '[detailed entry clearance visas dataset](#)'. The latest data is from January 2005 up to the end of June 2025.
- Data on sponsored work visas granted by occupation and industry are published in table 'Occ_D02' of the '[Sponsored work visas by occupation and industry dataset](#)'. The latest data is from January 2021 up to the end of June 2025.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

Impact

3. *What assessment has the Government made of the **short-term** impact of the FTA and DCC, on the UK labour market, and which sectors will be most impacted?*

As with many services trade provisions, the short-term impacts are unpredictable. The impact of services provisions in general relies on changing business behaviour, and external factors and individual business decisions mean that short-term impacts cannot be modelled reliably.

We do not expect any of the FTA's provisions on business mobility to result in a material impact on employment or on labour conditions given that they relate to short-term service supply, and do not allow entry into the labour market. The provisions within the agreement will also have no long-term impact on net migration as they are short-term and specifically limited.

The Home Office maintains close oversight over the use of visas for business mobility reasons and will continue to monitor this in the usual way. As part of the agreement, we have retained full control over immigration rules, including salary thresholds, sponsorship requirements, and eligibility criteria.

4. *Published data shows that India continues to account for the majority of Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) visas, though total numbers have fallen sharply since 2018. Does the Government anticipate that reduced employer costs under the DCC may lead to renewed growth in the use of ICT visas, and how will this be monitored and reported?*

The Treasury is writing to the Committee regarding the DCC.

Fiscal Impact

5. *What assessment has the Treasury made of the fiscal implications of removing National Insurance liabilities for detached workers under the DCC?*

The Treasury is writing to the Committee regarding the DCC.

6. *If an impact assessment has been undertaken, will the Government publish it?*

The Treasury is writing to the Committee regarding the DCC.

Cross-departmental coordination

7. *Could the Government set out how the Department for Business and Trade, the Home Office, and HM Treasury will feed into the Joint Committee's work, and which department will hold lead responsibility for monitoring and reporting the labour market and fiscal impacts of the mobility and DCC provisions?*

Once the FTA is implemented, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) will hold responsibility for oversight and organisation of the Committee structure in the FTA, including the Joint Committee, Sub-Committees and Working Groups. DBT will work closely with interested Whitehall Departments, including HM Treasury and the Home Office, to ensure that appropriate opportunities to progress their interests which may be achieved through Committee structures are realised. This includes any interests which may have been identified through evaluation methods, such as stakeholder consultations and economic analysis.

The Treasury is writing to the Committee regarding the DCC.

8. *In the event that the FTA's mobility provisions are found to have a material impact on employment or labour conditions, what mechanisms does the Government have to address concerns?*

As stated above, we do not expect any of the FTA's provisions on business mobility to result in a material impact on employment or labour conditions given that they relate to short-term service supply, not entry into the labour market.

Notwithstanding this, the following mechanisms can be utilised under the FTA to address mobility provisions:

Working Group on Temporary Movement of Natural Persons (TMNP).

Under the TMNP Chapter, both Parties have agreed to a Working Group which will be a subsidiary body of the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services (further details below). The Working Group is required to meet within 12 months of Entry into Force, and thereafter as agreed by both Parties. The Working Group's functions shall be to:

1. review and monitor the implementation of the chapter;
2. consider opportunities to facilitate temporary entry of natural persons covered under the chapter; and
3. facilitate the exchange of information about each Party's immigration measures relating to the categories of natural persons as defined in each Party's Schedules of Specific Commitments on TMNP.

Sub-Committee on Trade in Services.

The institutional provisions in the agreement commit to establishing a Sub-Committee for Trade in Services (including representatives for Financial Services, Telecommunications, Digital Trade, and TMNP) to meet one year after Entry into Force. The Sub-Committee then agrees on the frequency of future meetings. The Sub-Committee covers:

1. the monitoring of the implementation of the chapter;
2. the enhancement of trade between the parties; and
3. the exchange of information between the parties on issues related to the chapter.

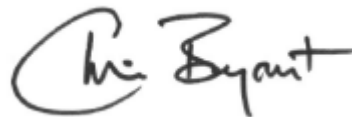
The Sub-Committee shall report to the Joint Committee as required, and may make recommendations or refer matters to the Joint Committee. It may also refer matters to the Working Group.

We thank the Committee for its engagement and hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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