Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Liam,

Thank you for your letter from 23 February, requesting an update on the status of the UK's trade relationship with the United States following the US Supreme Court's judgement on tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

Regarding tariffs, the UK remains on the 10% global tariff rate announced on 20 February, with the sector specific advantages agreed under the existing deal continuing to apply - this includes steel, pharmaceuticals and autos. We are aware of reporting about the potential increase to a 15% tariff rate for some countries. We will continue to work with the US Administration to understand how the ruling and subsequent announcements will affect the UK and the rest of the world, and to secure the best possible outcome for British businesses.

Since the ruling, the Secretary of State has been in contact with his counterpart, United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. He has underlined our concerns about further uncertainty for businesses and reinforced the need to honour the UK-US deal. I am also scheduled to meet my new US counterpart, Deputy United States Trade Representative Jeffrey Goettman, on 9 March. We continue to engage with the US at both ministerial and official level, and our priority remains to provide clarity for UK businesses and protect UK jobs.

We know that industry does not want to see a trade war where both sides keep escalating the situation, and that is why our focus is on constructive engagement with our US counterparts to retain the UK's competitive advantage.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bryant

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