



Department for Business & Trade

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for Business and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2DY

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

T: +44 (0) 020 4551 0011

E: Bryant.correspondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk

W: www.gov.uk/dbt

7 May 2026

Dear Liam,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

As I outlined in my previous letter of 21 November, CPTPP Ministers met at the Ninth Ministerial Commission Meeting on 20 and 21 November 2025. At this meeting, we agreed a range of positive outcomes for CPTPP, which I shared previously, and now after much work from the CPTPP Parties, I can confirm that negotiations on Costa Rica's accession to CPTPP have substantially concluded [Conclusion of Costa Rica's CPTPP Accession Working Group - GOV.UK](#)

As the *Trade Strategy* outlines, CPTPP is designed as a 'living' agreement, meaning it is designed to adapt to developments in the wider global economy. Substantially concluding Costa Rica's accession negotiations in eighteen months is a clear demonstration that CPTPP remains open for expansion. It follows the recent commencement of the accessions process with Uruguay, and CPTPP Ministers have also signalled their aspiration to commence accession processes for Indonesia, the Philippines and the UAE this year, if consensus can be found.

The fact that the CPTPP is growing and has several other countries who want to join shows that there is a strong appetite around the world for free and fair trade based on a shared set of rules.

CPTPP expansion, including through Costa Rica's accession, will bring material benefits for UK businesses and exporters through further liberalisation of international markets, and strengthening geo-political ties with key partners. Through CPTPP, businesses will be able to enjoy more access to Costa Rica's growing economy than is currently offered through current trade terms under the UK-Central American Association Agreement. Notably, the UK has secured additional market access for key products including cheddar (and other cheeses), beef, and pork. The UK has also protected sensitive domestic industries by not increasing access to sensitive agricultural sectors, including beef, pork and chicken, nor offered Costa Rica greater access than other CPTPP members.

The access the UK has secured also includes legally guaranteed access for UK businesses to bid for Costa Rican public procurement and stronger commitments for services.

The UK will benefit from Costa Rica's most ambitious Temporary Entry to date, including a new CPTPP-specific temporary entry route offering previously unavailable categories of Business Persons such as Contractual Service Suppliers, Independent Professionals and Specialised Technicians, with priority sectors secured for UK providers.

Costa Rica's accession will mark the first time that they have taken international obligations on State-Owned Enterprises, helping to protect British businesses from market distortions. For Financial Services, Costa Rica's accession gives UK firms legal certainty to provide portfolio management and e-payment card services to Costa Rican clients on a cross-border basis

The commitments that have been secured from Costa Rica ensure consistency with the precedent that the UK set during our accession to the CPTPP and help maintain the ambition and high standards of the CPTPP agreement.

My department will continue to keep you updated on the next steps regarding Costa Rica's accession, including Signature and Parliamentary processes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Committee for your continued support for the UK's membership of CPTPP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "Bryant".

SIR CHRIS BRYANT MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for Business and Trade