



**Department for
Business, Innovation,
Science and Trade**

Blair McDougall MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Minister for Reindustrialisation
Department for Business, Innovation,
Science and Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2DY

Rt Hon. Liam Byrne
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

T: +44 (0) 020 4551 0011
E: mcdougall.correspondence@businessandtrade.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk

1 September 2026

Dear Liam,

I am writing to update you on an important milestone in the UK's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

From 1 September 2026, the UK's accession to CPTPP will enter into force with Canada. This follows Canada's ratification and means that, for the first time, UK traders will be able to trade with Canada under CPTPP terms.

This is a particularly significant development because Canada's ratification means the UK's accession is now in force with all CPTPP members. British businesses can therefore access the full benefits of the agreement across all 11 CPTPP countries.

Canada is a close UK partner and fellow G7 member. Canada was also the world's 10th largest economy in 2025, with a market of 42 million people and GDP of \$2.3 trillion.

This milestone brings practical benefits for UK businesses. As part of Canada's ratification of the UK's accession to CPTPP, the UK has secured access to tariff rate quotas covering a wide range of dairy products, including cheese, cream and ice cream. This will provide UK farmers and dairy producers with additional tariff-free market access to Canada and create further opportunities to grow exports

The benefits of Canadian ratification will extend beyond goods trade. Having CPTPP in force with Canada will also make short-term business travel to Canada more flexible, allowing UK business visitors to stay for up to six months, with the option to extend.

In addition, the deal's digital trade commitments will support UK businesses by permitting them to store data entirely digitally, rather than having to establish physical facilities in

Canada. These commitments should be particularly useful for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) looking to expand into Canada and across CPTPP economies.

By improving access to information, reducing barriers to trade and increasing transparency, CPTPP will help SMEs take advantage of new opportunities across the bloc.

The agreement will also open up new public procurement opportunities by giving businesses in both countries enhanced access to markets not covered under previous agreements. For UK suppliers, this includes opportunities in sectors such as air transport, accounting and financial services.

The UK will continue to work closely with Canada and the other CPTPP members to build on the opportunities the agreement creates for businesses, consumers and economic growth.

I look forward to keeping you informed of future CPTPP developments. Please let me know if you have any questions as I would be happy to address them.

Yours sincerely,

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

BLAIR McDOUGALL MP
Minister for Reindustrialisation