



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith QC
Chairman
International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

18 May 2021

Dear Peter,

Call for Input - Future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Canada and Mexico

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I will be repeating a Written Ministerial Statement today to update Parliament on the launch of our Call for Input on future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Canada and Mexico. This will give businesses, public sector bodies, individuals, and other interested stakeholders the opportunity to provide valuable feedback and highlight their priorities for our future trading relationship with these two countries.

The UK has set its sights on the next generation of trade deals to secure closer economic ties with major economies of today and tomorrow. These deals will secure more access for British goods and services, opening significant new opportunities for UK business by boosting trade with Canada and Mexico, already worth £22.8bn and £5.1bn respectively in 2019. They will cement the UK's position as a world-leader in digital and services trade, and constituent key building blocks to UK membership of CPTPP as well as delivering benefits to the whole of the UK.

The UK signed Trade Continuity Agreements with both Canada and Mexico before the end of the Transition Period and committed to start negotiating the new trade deals later this year. Building on the deals signed in 2020, which secured tariff-free exports on 98% and 88% of goods to Canada and Mexico respectively, this next generation of trade deals provides the opportunity to set new benchmarks in areas like digital trade, climate and women's economic empowerment, and cement the UK's position as world-leader in digital and services trade.

The UK is to begin negotiations for upgraded trade deals with Canada and Mexico this year focused on creating even greater opportunities for UK businesses. Our new negotiations will allow us to go further to boost trade with these economies.

The Call for Input will ensure our future FTA negotiations with both Canada and Mexico are informed by stakeholder needs. The feedback received from stakeholders will be crucial when shaping our mandate, and will inform detailed negotiations preparation, and policy positions. The Department for International Trade is committed to ensuring future FTAs and their provisions are informed by stakeholder needs and shaped by the demands of the British economy.

The UK and our partners in Canada and Mexico share a desire to launch negotiations later this year. The Government is committed to transparency and will ensure that Parliament, the devolved administrations, UK citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grimstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Grim" and the last name "stone" clearly distinguishable.

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