



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  
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25 May 2021

Dear Peter,

**Update on plans for United Kingdom-India Free Trade Agreement:  
Public consultation launch**

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I will be repeating a Written Ministerial Statement today, to update Parliament on our plans for the public consultation for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. The public consultation will launch today and will be open for 14 weeks until 31 August 2021.

On 4 May 2021, the Prime Minister launched the United Kingdom-India Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) with Prime Minister Modi as part of the '2030 Roadmap' between the two countries. The Partnership sets the ambition to double the value of Anglo-Indian trade by 2030 and declares our shared intent to begin work towards a comprehensive FTA. It creates immediate opportunities for British businesses in India also, across industries including food and drink, life sciences and the services sector.

India is a growing and dynamic market. Through a United Kingdom-India FTA, there would be significant opportunity to boost British goods exports through lower tariffs, in addition to promoting areas of British specialism, such as telecommunications and financial services. Furthermore, a comprehensive trade deal would support jobs and livelihoods in both countries and has the potential to maximise economic benefit for the whole of the country across a wide range of sectors of mutual interest, from healthcare to innovative technology.

Drawing upon best practice from previous public engagements on free trade agreements, the public consultation is comprised of a questionnaire and accompanying information note accessible on GOV.UK. During this process, we will encourage inputs across business, civil society, public sector bodies and both local government and the Devolved Administrations across our nation to gather a broad range of views on current and future trading arrangements with India.

The results of this consultation will inform our mandate setting process ahead of the full FTA negotiations, with the aim of completing our FTA scoping by the end of this year. The anonymised results and HM Government's response will be published together with our negotiating objectives and an economic scoping assessment (our preliminary assessment of the potential economic impacts of a United Kingdom-India FTA) later this year in accordance with our commitment to ensure Parliamentarians, British citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations.

The Secretary of State and I look forward to working with you and your committee as we progress our work towards a future FTA with India.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Grimstone', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt**  
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