



Department for
International Trade

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk/dit

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 May 2021

Dear Angus,

**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 making 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 make sure that Parliamentarians, British citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations.

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

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', is centered on the page.

THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade

Title: Launch of consultation on potential future United Kingdom-India Free Trade Agreement

Statement

This morning, the Department for International Trade launched a public consultation on a future Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. This consultation will make sure that Parliament, local government and the Devolved Administrations across our nation, the public, business, civil society and trade unions can have their say on HM Government's approach to a future trade agreement with India.

India, as the world's largest democracy, enjoys shared values with the United Kingdom, as well as strong cultural links. It is expected to become the second biggest economy in the world by 2050, presenting significant trade and investment opportunities as a key partner for us in the increasingly important Indo-Pacific region.

On 4 May 2021, the Prime Minister launched the United Kingdom-India Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) with Prime Minister Modi of India as part of the '2030 Roadmap' between the two countries, which includes a declaration of our shared intent to begin work towards a comprehensive FTA.

A future comprehensive deal could provide opportunities for businesses across the United Kingdom in key sectors of mutual interest such as healthcare, technology and services. It would boost an already strong economic relationship too; bilateral trade more than doubled between 2007 and 2019, standing at around £23bn at the end of this period, and the bilateral investment relationship currently supports nearly half a million jobs across both countries.

The online consultation, which opens today on GOV.UK and will be live for 14 weeks, will be accompanied by an information note that sets out the definition and scope of an FTA, along with detailed analytical information on the United Kingdom's current trade and investment relationship with India.

I aim to complete scoping before the end of this year, with the results informing our approach to full FTA negotiations.