



# International Trade Committee

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Ranil Jayawardena MP  
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26 May 2021

Dear Ranil,

Thank you for the Government's response to the Committee's Report into UK trade remedies, which we have considered and will publish shortly. We welcome the commitment for the TRA to respond further to the Committee's recommendations within three months of its establishment on 1 June.

During a public evidence session last week, Secretary Truss informed the Committee that the Department for International Trade was undertaking a review into the powers that the Secretary of State has in relation to the Trade Remedies Authority.<sup>1</sup> This is not addressed in the response to our Report, so we would welcome more information on the scope, timeline, and effects of this review.

Secretary Truss explained that, in relation to the ongoing review of safeguarding measures, the Secretary of State cannot retain trade remedies measures against the advice of the independent Trade Remedies Authority.<sup>2</sup> This inability to depart from the advice of the Trade Remedies Authority was highlighted as an area in need of attention, with the strengthening of the Secretary of State's powers being a possible outcome of the review.<sup>3</sup>

We would welcome clarification as to the range of powers currently being reviewed by the Department and when it expects to conclude its review. We would also appreciate it if you could confirm whether the considered changes to the Secretary of State's powers will require modifications to legislation that is currently in force.

Kind regards,

Angus Brendan MacNeil  
Chair of the International Trade Committee

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<sup>1</sup> [Q23](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Q23](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Q26](#)