



## Department for International Trade

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

7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Angus,

### **Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom, and Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein**

The United Kingdom has secured a new trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein that will boost critical British sectors like digital, slash tariffs on high-quality British food and farm products, and supports jobs in every corner of our country.

The deal agreed in principle today is the first time these three European countries have included dedicated chapters on digital trade and small businesses in any trade deal, making it the most advanced they have done to date.

Cutting-edge digital provisions will limit unnecessary paperwork when British firms export to Norway and Iceland. Electronic documents, contracts and signatures will allow goods to move seamlessly across borders and saving businesses time and money.

The agreement slashes tariffs – which have been as high as 277% – for exporters of West Country Farmhouse Cheddar, Orkney Scottish Island Cheddar, Traditional Welsh Caerphilly, and Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese to Norway. There are tariff reductions and quotas on pork, poultry and other goods, too. British wines and spirits including Scotch Whisky will also now be recognised in Norway and Iceland also.

Reduced import tariffs on shrimps, prawns and haddock will reduce costs for the British fish processing industry, helping support some 18,000 jobs in that industry in Scotland, East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.

The agreement means British businesses can bid for more government contracts in all three countries, worth some £200 million a year.

The deal will allow caps on the charges mobile operators are allowed to levy on each other for international mobile roaming, a world-first in an FTA, keeping costs low for holiday makers and business travellers.

It allows high-skilled professionals to enter Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein for business purposes also, means faster and simpler visa processes, and it includes professional qualification recognition – so nurses, lawyers, vets and other professionals will have a clear route to have their qualification recognised to work in the partner countries.

The deal means clearer rules for financial services firms that ensure they cannot be treated unfairly, and includes the most ambitious commitment to support investment ever secured by the United Kingdom in an FTA, enabling investors to appoint preferred candidates for senior management without being limited by nationality and residency criteria.

We will lay a copy of the trade agreement in Parliament alongside an Explanatory Memorandum and a Parliamentary Report providing further detail on the terms of the deal. I hope this will be helpful to you and your Committee.

With best wishes.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ranil', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP**  
Minister for International Trade