



International Trade Committee

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Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
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Dear Liz,

Further to your Oral Statement this morning updating the House on Australia free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, I wanted to follow up urgently.

As set out in my letter of 10 June – to which I have yet to receive a reply – and as I mentioned during the Statement, strong public scrutiny of trade negotiations and the subsequent deals is vital. While you committed in the House today to appearing before my Committee ‘prior to signing’, I reiterate the importance of our having the opportunity to scrutinise the detail of the Agreement in Principle more fully, and would be grateful if you could confirm that you and Vivien Life will appear before my Committee within the next couple of weeks at most, making yourself available and instructing your officials to make arrangements with the Committee Clerk urgently.

It is vital that there is open and public scrutiny at this stage as well as when the final agreement is signed. You have described this agreement as ‘gold standard’; I hope we can agree on gold standard scrutiny as well.

In accordance with our usual practice, this letter, along with your reply, will be published on the Committee’s webpage.

Kind regards,

Angus Brendan MacNeil
Chair of the International Trade Committee