



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
*Secretary of State for Housing,
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Dear Angus,

Thank you for your Committee's recent report on HM Government's Freeports policy. As the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is now responsible for the delivery of the Freeports programme, I will be responding.

HM Government welcomes the Committee's report published on 20th April, and the Committee's recognition of the Government's ambition to increase trade and investment across the UK through Freeports.

I can assure you my department is working closely and collaboratively across Government, in particular with HM Treasury and the Department for International Trade, to ensure we maximise the objectives of Freeports through our shared expertise. Once designated, UK Freeports will create national hubs for trade, innovation, commerce, and global investment; regenerating communities across the UK by spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country.

The Government is actively working with the eight English Freeports to support the delivery of the policy, with the first planned to open for business in late 2021. We are already seeing the policy bring together ports, local authorities, businesses, and other key local stakeholders to achieve a common goal of shared prosperity and opportunity for their regions. We also remain committed to establishing at least one Freeport in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as soon as possible.

I and my counterparts across government have addressed each of the report's recommendations and conclusions in an Annex to this letter.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

