



International Trade Committee

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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
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25 June 2021

Dear Robert,

Thank you for the Government's response to my Committee's UK Freeports report, which we are publishing today alongside your covering letter.

The Committee was pleased to see the progress made on cross-department working and governance for Freeports, and to see that the Government will provide annual updates to the Committee on the progress of Freeports, with evidence from the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy. However, I would be grateful if you could give a more specific indication of when we can expect to see the M&E strategy, and so begin this annual cycle, beyond "in due course".

Further, following the recent G7 announcement of the intention to clamp down on tax avoidance by global corporations, I'd be grateful if you could provide details of what the impact of this is expected to be on the Freeports policy. Please can you also confirm whether additional measures are being put into place, following the announcement, to protect Freeports, and whether all this will be included in the M&E strategy and subsequent impact assessments. I understand that some of the detail may still be in development, but would appreciate whatever you can provide now, and then further information when the detail has been worked through.

In accordance with our usual practice, this letter, along with any replies, will be published on the Committee's webpage. I am copying this letter to the Department for International Trade, and HM Treasury, as well as the Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee.

Kind regards,

Angus Brendan MacNeil
Chair of the International Trade Committee