



Department for International Trade

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
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By email: tradecom@parliament.uk

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Dear Angus,

New UK trade scheme to drive trade with developing countries and boost jobs and growth

I'm writing to inform you and your committee that today 19 July I will be making a Written Ministerial Statement to inform Parliament that the government is launching a consultation on its new Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). The Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) is a major opportunity to grow free and fair trade with developing nations. It will allow countries to diversify their exports and grow their economies, while British households and businesses benefit from lower prices and more choice.

The UK currently operates a similar scheme rolled over from the EU, but as an independent trading nation can now take a simpler, more generous, pro-growth approach to trading with developing countries. The proposed scheme would apply to 70 qualifying countries currently and include improvements such as lower tariffs and simpler rules of origin requirements for countries exporting to the UK.

The proposed new UK scheme will mean more opportunities and less bureaucracy for developing countries. It will also help lower costs for UK businesses, increasing trade between us for our mutual economic benefit.

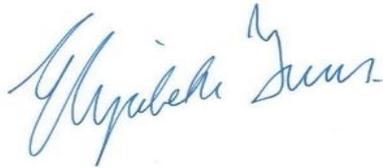
Trade fundamentally empowers people and has done more than any single policy in history to lift millions of people around the world out of poverty. Now the UK is an independent trading nation we have a huge opportunity to do things differently, taking a more liberal, pro-trade approach that leads to growth and opportunity.

We intend our scheme to be best in class, having studied similar schemes offered by Canada, the US, Japan and the EU, before constructing an approach that takes some of the strongest elements of each and builds on them.

Countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam have demonstrated that increasing trade through schemes like the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme helped them grow their economy, improve living standards, and drive down poverty.

Please find attached additional information about this announcement that you can share with your Committee members. The consultation on the UK's new scheme runs for eight weeks and seeks the view of all sectors of society, including businesses, the public, civil society groups, consumers, associations, partner governments and any other interested stakeholders.

Best wishes,



THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade