



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Peter,

I wanted to write to you following a letter the Secretary of State, Liz Truss, sent to the Chair of the International Agreements Committee on Parliamentary scrutiny, specifically on the Australia Agreement in Principle.

The effective scrutiny of our FTAs is essential, which is why we have put in place extensive arrangements to support transparency and scrutiny throughout all stages of negotiations. This includes making myself and my officials regularly available for briefings with your Committee, both in public and in private. These private briefings provide the ability to discuss the more sensitive aspects of our approach as soon as time allows to keep you fully updated without compromising the UK's negotiations.

The published agreement in principle is the first step in finalising our agreement with Australia before its entry into force. There will now be a period of several months during which the full FTA text is finalised and will go through a legal scrub. The full FTA text will then be signed and published by the end of the year, alongside an independently scrutinised impact assessment and explanatory memorandum. My department will endeavour to share these with your Committee shortly before publication, where time allows. After this point there will be ample time for scrutiny of the finalised FTA, including by your Committee and the independent Trade and Agriculture Commission. I anticipate there being a period of at least three months between the publication of the signed FTA and it being laid in Parliament for the purposes of CRaG.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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