



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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24 August 2021

Dear Peter,

Update on negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with New Zealand

I am writing to inform you of the progress of the sixth round of negotiations towards a UK-New Zealand free trade agreement.

In line with a timeline agreed with New Zealand on publishing the outcome of the sixth round of negotiations, it was necessary to publish our Outcome Statement during recess. As such I will not be making a Written Ministerial Statement, but have published an Outcome Statement on GOV.UK today. I am therefore writing to ensure you remain updated on developments in our negotiation.

Here is the link to the Outcome Statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

You will have also received a My Lords letter through the usual channels. However, I am writing to you as part of my ongoing commitment to keep you and your committee updated on trade negotiations.

The sixth round of free trade agreement negotiations with New Zealand took place virtually between 19-30 July 2021.

We have now provisionally closed nine chapters and one annex in total. In Round Six, significant progress was made in Express Delivery Services (Annex), Anti-Corruption, and Development chapters. We discussed a further twenty-two chapters, with productive discussions in all areas.

An agreement could see the removal of tariffs on an array of UK and New Zealand exports, such as food and drink, clothing, and manufactured goods.

A free trade agreement with New Zealand will open another important gateway to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a £9 trillion free trade area of 11 Asia-Pacific nations, including New Zealand and Australia. Membership will open huge new opportunities for our farmers, manufacturers, and services firms, with two-thirds of the world's middle classes set to be in Asia by 2030.

Any deal the UK agrees will be fair and balanced and in the best interests of the whole of the country. We remain committed to upholding our high environmental, labour, food safety and animal welfare standards in the deal, as well as protecting the National Health Service.

Throughout the process the Government remains fully committed to transparency and will ensure that parliamentarians, UK citizens and businesses have access to information on our trade negotiations. We will make the next statement on progress following any further rounds of talks, or else upon reaching Agreement in Principle.

I look forward to discussing these matters in due course with your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grimstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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