



Department for International Trade

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Dear Angus,

I am writing in response to your letter of 1 July regarding the introduction of new regulations to defend the UK steel industry. I would like to thank you and the members of the International Trade Committee for inviting me to discuss the current trade remedies regime on 19 May. I would also like to apologise that you did not receive a response to your letter of 26 May, however I hope that this letter will also address the questions it raised.

The trade remedies framework was first introduced in 2018 under the previous Government. The newly-established Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) is the Department for International Trade's first non-departmental public body and carries out investigations and reviews as part of our independent trade remedies system

There were a number of complex factors involved in the Government's decision of 30 June. As you will know, the Government accepted the TRA's recommendation to maintain the safeguard on ten steel product categories for a further three years. It also made new regulations on 30 June. These allowed me to make a public notice which temporarily extended the safeguard measure on a further 5 steel product categories for an initial period of 12 months. This action will give the industry an opportunity to appeal the TRA's recommendation, so that any new evidence can be reviewed in the context of the unique global market conditions which currently exist. This includes assessing the risk of injury arising from the EU safeguard, which was published after the TRA made its decision.

As I have announced previously, the Government will also review the trade remedies framework. It is crucial that in future we have the tools to ensure industries are defended against unfair competition and unforeseen surges in imports. I am currently considering the options and I recognise that this is of interest to your committee. However, as I am sure you will understand, we need to take account of domestic legislation, WTO rules and the needs of different industries, and proceed carefully. As such, the review is at an early stage and I am not yet in a position to disclose the exact scope and timeframe which it will follow. However, I will write to you and the International Trade Committee with more details as soon as I am in a position to do so.

I would like to thank you and the International Trade Committee for your continued interest in the trade remedies regime.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', written in a cursive style.

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