



Department for International Trade

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

5 October 2021

Dear Angus,

Thank you for the warm welcome to my appointment as Secretary of State for International Trade.

I look forward to building on the strong relationship that the Department for International Trade built with your Committee under the leadership of my predecessor. I note that in the previous 12 months, Ministers and senior officials from the Department have made themselves available to your Committee for evidence sessions on 19 separate occasions, covering a range of issues. I want to reassure you that my Department will continue this extensive engagement with your Committee.

I am aware of the important role your Committee and the International Agreements Committee in the House of Lords play in the scrutiny of the Government's ambitious trade agenda. You raise the agreement-in-principle (AIP) that the Government is working to secure with New Zealand. Following AIP, the relevant senior officials and I will, at the earliest opportunity, appear before your Committee to answer your questions on the outline agreement. You will appreciate that scheduling a date at this time is not possible given that negotiations are ongoing.

I am pleased to restate the commitment that we will ensure your Committee has sufficient time to complete its important scrutiny work on new FTAs prior to ratification. When the Australia and New Zealand free trade agreements (FTA) are signed and published in due course, they will be accompanied by an independently scrutinised impact assessment and explanatory memorandum.

My Department will endeavour to confidentially share these with your Committee shortly before publication, where time allows. After this point there will be ample time for scrutiny of the finalised agreements, 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 respective agreement and it being laid in Parliament for the purposes of the Constitutional Reform and Governance (CRAg) Act 2010.

I look forward to meeting with you in due course and establishing a good working relationship with your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne-Marie Trevelyan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade