



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

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Department for International Trade
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18 October 2021

Update on negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

Dear Gerry,

Thank you for your letter of 4 October providing an update on the negotiations for CPTPP accession and, in particular, on the first Working Group discussion. We would welcome clarification on a couple of points.

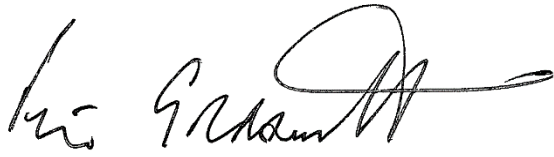
In the light of China's and Taiwan's recent accession bids, what assessment has the UK Government made of the impact of those bids, including for its own accession process; and what steps, if any, is the Government taking to ensure that its accession is finalised before China and Taiwan have had their applications processed? Also, please provide some information on how their accession may affect your cost-benefit analysis set out in the Strategic Approach for joining CPTPP.

We would also be grateful if you could clarify what is meant by the assertion in your letter that membership of the CPTPP will place existing imports "on a reliable footing". Is your view that without accession, existing trade would be at risk? If so, we would welcome further supporting information.

We would be grateful for a response to this letter within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the Commons International Trade Committee; the Minister for Trade Policy, the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP; and the Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Goldsmith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee