



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

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The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
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26 October 2021

Dear Anne-Marie,

Export Licensing

The Committee has recently been approached by Oxford Instruments with concerns about the damage to not only their business but to the UK economy of problems with the current licensing arrangements for exports particular to China. They say:

“systemic failings in export licensing are causing UK technology companies like ours to lose hard-won export business to foreign competitors.”

Their main complaints are:

- export license refusals increasing from £2,6000,000 during 2018-2019 to £6,700,000 during the 2020-2021 fiscal year;
- the scale of export license delays;
- an opaque decision-making process; and
- a lack of clear feedback surrounding export control license refusals.

Oxford Instruments are calling for urgent reform of export licensing control.

Please could you update me and the Committee on whether you see there are problems at the Export Control Joint Unit and if so what your Department is doing to rectify the problems.

I am copying in The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP and Angus Brendan McNeill MP, Chair of the International Trade Committee, for their information.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee