



Department for International Trade

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Dame Meg Hillier
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
Public Accounts Committee
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By email

29th October 2021

Dear Dame Hillier

I am writing to provide an update on the work that the Department has undertaken in response to the recommendations made by your Committee in its report on Government support for exporters.

As part of our response in the May 2021 Treasury Minute, DIT proposed updating the Committee by correspondence on recommendation 2b.

We have provided Her Majesty's Treasury with the formal Minute which will be published soon. In it, we outline a number of measures we are continuing to take in response to your helpful recommendation, 2b, which was to consider ways in which we could support companies exporting for the first time. The Department is rolling out our export support hubs for high potential SMEs in all nine HM Trade Commissioner regions and added this year to the 418 Export Champions, who provide peer support to new and growing exporters. This is part of an ambitious business engagement

programme targeted at engaging with and supporting businesses that are new to exporting or wish to grow their exports. Our forthcoming International Trade Week will host over 80 events to do just this, and we will bring this together in a new Export Strategy shortly which will set out all our actions in support of exporting.

The recommendations you provided and the discussion at the Committee have helped inform our approach as we have sought to refresh the Strategy. I will continue to update the Committee including on the contents of this Strategy.

I am grateful for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bowler', is centered on the page.

JAMES BOWLER