



International Trade Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB
Tel.: 020 7219 1318 E-mail: tradecom@parliament.uk

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London
SW1A 2BL

18 November 2021

Dear Anne-Marie,

Thank you for your response¹ yesterday to my letter of 8 November,² albeit slightly later than requested.

While I am grateful for the information you have shared, I am disappointed that your letter did not fully answer all my questions. Specifically, please can you:

1. provide an update on the review of your department's approach to trade modelling, including the timetable for publishing and implementing its conclusions;
2. explain specifically which changes have been made to the methodology for assessing the impact of free trade agreements (FTAs), why these were needed, and how they relate to the work of the modelling review;
3. commit to also providing such details for any future changes to the methodology used for FTA impact assessments;
4. clarify whether a dataset will be provided to allow like-for-like comparison of impact assessments for *all* new FTAs, from the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement onwards, not just between the Australia and New Zealand agreements;
5. confirm whether the need that has been identified for primary legislation to implement the Australia agreement is in relation to demands from Australia for changes to UK domestic legislation, as referred to in my previous letter; and
6. indicate whether the apparent delay in finalising the Australia FTA is due to contentious issues having arisen, or the "legal scrub" taking longer than expected.

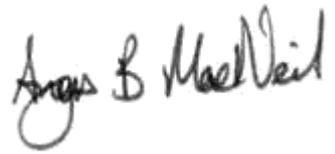
Finally, given your confirmation of the need for primary legislation, please can you confirm that you will ensure your department proactively keeps the Committee updated (if necessary, privately) on the scope and timing for this.

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7908/documents/81926/default/>

² <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7804/documents/81231/default/>

In accordance with our usual practice, this letter, along with any replies, will be published on the Committee's webpage.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus B MacNeil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.

Angus Brendan MacNeil
Chair of the International Trade Committee