



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

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29 November 2021

Dear Gerry,

AIP, New Zealand

Thank you for your letter of 15 November in response to our Committee's letter of 29 October regarding the Agreement in Principle with New Zealand.

We note from this that the DIT is thoroughly "engaged" with the devolved administrations as negotiations progress. However, Members of the Committee are curious as to what the term engagement actually means, particularly in those areas – such as agriculture – which are devolved, albeit trade itself is reserved. Our assumption is that any decision affecting agriculture would need rather more than consultation or engagement, and something rather closer to agreement. Might you enlighten the Committee on this matter?

I might also say at this point that we are still awaiting a date from your office as to when you will meet the Committee – an engagement which does have an element of urgency given the discussions, and potential decisions, taking place in the Admiralty Building.

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 Penny Mordaunt MP; and the Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena MP.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Chair, International Agreements Committee