



# International Trade Committee

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

16 December 2021

Dear Anne-Marie,

Thank you for your letter today, and for early sight of the UK-Australia free trade agreement documents.

My Committee looks forward to scrutinising the new agreement over the coming months. However, in order to do this to the best of our ability, I must ask you to clarify a few key elements as a matter of urgency.

Currently, the possible timeline for scrutiny is of “at least three months” from publication<sup>1</sup> (the same broad timeline the Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) has for its scrutiny<sup>2</sup>) plus a “reasonable period” between its advice being published and the 21 sitting day Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG) period being triggered.<sup>3</sup> Given this agreement is being published in recess and as we enter the Christmas period, when you consider the ‘at least 3 months’ to begin, and exactly when it will end, is vital information.

Please can you clarify, for this agreement:

1. exactly how long the TAC will have to prepare its advice;
2. when the TAC’s advice will be published;
3. when the report under section 42 the Agriculture Act 2020 will be published; and
4. how long after that the Committee will have to consider both before the CRaG period is triggered.

Due to the urgency, I would appreciate a reply within the next few days. I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee and the International Agreements Committee, given their interest also.

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".

Angus Brendan MacNeil  
Chair of the International Trade Committee

<sup>1</sup> [Letter from the Secretary of State to the Chair relating to trade agreement scrutiny, 5 October 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Terms of reference: Trade and Agriculture Commission](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Correspondence from the Minister for Trade Policy regarding UK trade negotiations oral evidence follow-up, dated 3 December 2021](#)