



## Department for International Trade

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11 January 2022

Dear Angus

### **RE: Parliamentary Scrutiny of the UK-Australia FTA**

Thank you for your letter of 16 December.

The TAC will have until 31 March 2022 to prepare its advice. This deadline was set down in my letter to the TAC Chair, a copy of which I am attaching for reference.

I cannot at this stage put a specific date on the publication of the TAC's advice, nor of the report under section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020. This is important work and my priority is to ensure that these reports are robust, rather than to meet specific deadlines. I expect the section 42 report to be published some weeks after we receive the TAC's advice.

I am sure we will find an agreeable solution which allows you sufficient time to consider the TAC's advice before the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act's (CRaG) 21 sitting day period is triggered. My officials will be in touch with yours on this matter in due course.

I do not envisage there being a significant period of time between the publication of the report under section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020 and the triggering of the CRaG period. CRaG provides an effective and robust framework for scrutiny of treaties that require ratification, including free trade agreements. We have already significantly supplemented the CRaG process by publishing the treaty as soon as it was signed, and putting in place the TAC and section 42 reporting mechanisms.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Marie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP**  
Secretary of State for International Trade  
& President of the Board of Trade