



## Department for International Trade

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27 October 2020

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 14 October regarding access to trade negotiation documents following the 24 September meeting of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee.

The eleven TAGs represent specific sectors vital to the economy, and their expertise is drawn upon to inform and strengthen the UK's negotiating position and trade. Members have been selected to ensure all UK regions are represented, with a good cross-section of businesses and a range of expert advice.

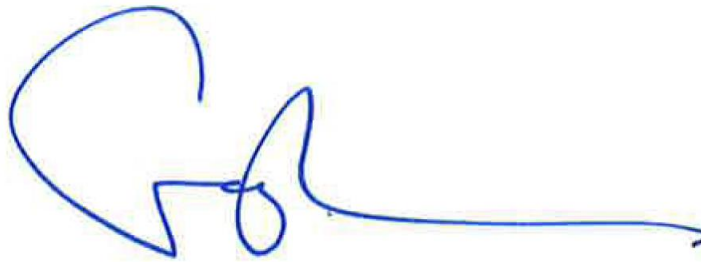
As Baroness Morgan noted in the same committee appearance you have raised, the relationship between DIT and the Welsh Government is both positive and strong. Our programme of engagement with the devolved administrations is comprehensive, in depth and constructive. We share written information that relates directly to the competence of the Welsh Government and Senedd. Furthermore, we engage across all areas of trade policy, including those areas that relate solely to reserved competence, ensuring there is a good understanding of the positions that are developed and any underlying analysis.

All devolved administrations, including the Welsh Government, are involved in the development and delivery of trade policy in the broadest possible terms whilst respecting the current constitutional settlement, with the negotiation of international trade agreements being reserved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their interest in our work and note that we continue to welcome the constructive and useful input of the Welsh Government in our FTA programme.

I am copying this letter to Minister Miles in the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'G' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP**  
Minister of State for Trade Policy  
Department for International Trade