



## Department for International Trade

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

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Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October, to the Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP. I am replying as Minister responsible for this policy area.

I was pleased to read your welcoming comments regarding our white paper commitments, to deliver an inclusive and transparent approach to trade policy. I believe that our trade policy can only benefit from the input of the devolved administrations and legislatures. The Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade (DIT), recently met with the Welsh First Minister to discuss the Welsh Government's priorities from a UK trade policy, as well as views on the recent trade white paper.

With regard to future trade agreements, we have committed to consult on our approach to engaging the devolved administrations and legislatures on future trade agreements in due course. We recognise that both the devolved administrations and legislatures will have a direct interest in our future trade agreements, and want to ensure that we conduct this consultation before setting out further details on our approach. We believe it is important that we build an understanding of the interests of the devolved administrations and legislatures, and welcome your views on this point.

More immediately however, we have recently introduced legislation to Parliament. The Trade Bill extends and applies to the whole of the UK, and will put in place the necessary legal powers and structures to enable us to operate a fully functioning trade policy. This will ensure the UK is ready for exit, providing continuity for individuals, businesses, and international trading partners.

As the explanatory notes set out, the Government is seeking legislative consent for the provisions in the Trade Bill, relating to the power to implement the Government Procurement Agreement (clause 1) and the power to implement qualifying international trade agreements (clause 2). We want to deliver this legislation for the benefit of the whole of the UK, and welcome the opportunity to engage with you further to discuss this legislation, as well as our broader developing approach to trade policy.

As lead Minister for the Trade Bill in DIT, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to take this forward.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G Hands', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**RT HON GREG HANDS MP**

Minister of State for Trade Policy and Minister for London

Department for International Trade