



Department for International Trade

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Dear Lord Grantchester,

28th January 2019

Thank you for your questions regarding Geographical Indications (GIs) during the Trade Bill Committee stage in the House of Lords on 23 January 2019. I hope that I was able to reassure you as to the future protection of UK GIs (including Cornish pasties and Gloucestershire Old Spot pork) in the UK, the EU and the Rest of the World after the UK leaves the EU. As promised, I am writing to provide further responses to your queries.

Your first question was: "Will there be a resolution scheme or body that hears disputes? Will the future TRA adjudicate immediately on these PDO issues or will there be a role for the First-tier Tribunal, which presently presides over branding issues?"

Under the new UK GI scheme any appeals relating to the registration of new (or amendment of existing) GIs will be handled under the First-tier Tribunal system. This is something that the Government proposed in its recent consultation on GIs and which stakeholders supported.

Your second question was "In the future, once we have established our scheme, will an applicant have to apply twice (to the UK and the EU) to have their product protected in both, or will there be some sort of reciprocity where a product protected on one register is automatically protected on the other?"

The UK will be setting up its own GI schemes after EU exit, which will be independent of the EU GI schemes. The day they enter into force, they will be open to applications from both UK and non-UK applicants for assessment by UK authorities. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, new UK products will need to secure GI status in the UK first and then apply to the EU for protection there. As I highlighted to the House on the 23 January, the European Commission has confirmed that all current UK GIs will continue to be protected by the EU's GI schemes.

I hope that this further information reassures you that the UK Government will be providing continuity for UK producers. I am copying this letter to Lord Stevenson of Balmacara and Lord Purvis of Tweed. I am also placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Baroness Fairhead

Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion
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