



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

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Rachel Reeves MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
House of Commons
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25th February 2019

Dear Rachel

Euratom Exit – UK-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA)

Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the government's top priority, this has not changed. Our continued cooperation with third countries in the civil nuclear sector is a priority whether there is a deal with the EU or not. We have therefore been working with the priority third countries to make arrangements which can be implemented either at the end of an Implementation period or on 29 March this year. I have already updated you on our excellent progress in this regard in respect of new NCAs with USA, Australia and Canada. ensure continuity.

I am now pleased to inform you that the United Kingdom has signed an Exchange of Notes with the Government of Japan which relates to our existing bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) from 1998.

This Exchange of Letters (which will be deposited in the libraries of both Houses alongside a copy of this letter) confirms how the existing terms of the 1998 agreement between the UK and Japan will operate in the context of a UK exit from the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and formally notifies the Government of Japan of the change in safeguards arrangements in the UK. This will allow the UK and Japan to continue our mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy when the current Euratom arrangements cease to apply to the UK.

This exchange with Japan follows the signing of three bilateral NCAs (with Australia, Canada and the US) and two nuclear safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency last year. This UK-Japan Exchange of Notes is the final new arrangement needed to meet a Parliamentary requirement (under Section 4 of the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2018) to have in place all of the 'principal international agreements' required as a result of the UK's withdrawal from Euratom. This therefore means that the UK now has all of the international agreements it requires to ensure that civil nuclear trade with international partners can continue following the UK's withdrawal from Euratom.

This marks a significant milestone in the UK's preparations for withdrawal from Euratom and affirms the importance the Government has placed on ongoing cooperation with the UK's international partners in the civil nuclear sector.

Best wishes

Richard

RICHARD HARRINGTON MP
Minister for Business and Industry

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