



## Department for International Trade

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP  
Secretary of State for International Trade  
President of the Board of Trade  
Department for International Trade  
King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk](mailto:truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk/dit](http://www.gov.uk/dit)

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you about the recent ruling on US retaliation rights in the Airbus dispute at the World Trade Organization. This was the subject of several Urgent Questions in the House on Monday evening and I wanted to outline the steps that we are taking in response to this ruling.

As you are no doubt aware, the United States Trade Representative has published the list of products upon which they intend to levy retaliatory tariffs. This includes many British exports including Stilton, Scotch and Irish whisky and Cashmere wool. Other than the EU 27, the United States is the UK's largest single export market and I am aware of the significant impact that these tariffs could have on businesses and livelihoods.

You can find the list of products that are affected at:

<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/october/us-wins-75-billion-award-airbus>

We are very clear that resorting to tariffs is not in the interest of the UK, EU or the US and are working closely with our European partners to secure a negotiated settlement to these disputes and avoid tariffs before they come into force. Additionally, through the EU we are seeking confirmation from the WTO that the UK has fully complied with WTO rulings regarding support to Airbus and should not be subject to additional tariffs.

DIT has already raised the issue of tariffs at the highest levels of the US administration. I have spoken to US Trade Representative Lighthizer, Commerce Secretary Ross, and Vice President Pence, the Chancellor raised Airbus tariffs with US Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin in July, and the Prime Minister raised the issue with President Trump during his state visit to the UK in June 2019.

I can assure you that we are continuing to raise this at the highest levels of the US administration but if you have any concerns, please do get in touch.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library.

Best wishes,

**THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP**  
Secretary of State for International Trade  
& President of the Board of Trade