



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear David,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate at the first sitting of Committee meeting on the Trade Bill on Tuesday 29 September. We heard a wide range of incisive comments from Noble Lords, which provided scrutiny of the highest order for this legislation.

I resolved to follow up with you directly following your powerful contributions to amendment 33.

This Government has been very clear that we will continue to encourage all states to uphold international human rights obligations. Often, the UK has played a driving role in the formation of these international obligations. Any future deals must work for UK consumers and businesses, upholding our high regulatory standards. None of the 20 continuity agreements we have signed have weakened protections in this area.

I can confirm that this legislation can only be used to implement agreements with countries with which the EU had signed trade agreements on or before 31st January 2020, the point at which the UK left the EU. This means that the Trade Bill clause 2 power cannot be used to implement a trade agreement with China. Nor can it be used to implement a trade agreement with DR Congo. A full list of countries within scope of the Trade Bill can be found on Gov.uk.

You raised the recent discussions at Report Stage of the Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Bill in your Lordships' house. This is of course a matter for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, however I have asked my officials to make enquiries as to the progress of these discussions and I will update you as soon as I can.

I would be happy to facilitate a discussion between yourself and the relevant Minister, if you would find this helpful.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment
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