



Department for Business & Trade

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12 December 2023

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for attending the Grand Committee meeting on the Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill; I hope you found my responses useful. At day one of Committee consideration two questions were raised on clause 2 of the Bill. The first was on the Bill's application to Northern Ireland, and the second on the benefit of including a mechanism for conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to report on the impact on the accreditation of goods from CPTPP parties.

On the first question, the short answer is that the clause's application will be limited to Great Britain. Under the Windsor Framework, only EU legislation relating to conformity assessment of goods applies in Northern Ireland. The protocol for the UK's accession to the CPTPP provides that nothing in the CPTPP will undermine the Windsor Framework. Therefore, the EU regulations on accreditation will continue to apply in Northern Ireland, rather than the requirement for national treatment of CABs.

On the second question of a reporting mechanism for CABs, let me first clarify that the clause does not speak to the accreditation of goods from CPTPP parties. It is instead only CABs from CPTPP parties that can apply for accreditation. So, nothing in the clause changes the safety, quality, or composition of goods that we import from CPTPP member states.

If you or any other Noble Lord is interested in monitoring which and how many CPTPP-based CABs are successful in obtaining UK accreditation, you (and the general public) will be able to do that: the UK's competent authority already publishes the names, addresses and locations of all accredited CABs online at this website: <https://find-a-conformity-assessment-body.service.gov.uk/>. In other words, all relevant information is already available to the public without an additional reporting burden to businesses like CABs.

I hope you find this response helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact me. I am looking forward to continuing to work with you during the passage of the Bill.

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

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Johnson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE
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