

Rt. Hon. Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HP

18th July 2022

Dear Ms Trevelyan

As NGOs, trade unions and civil society organisations from across the UK, we are writing to raise our concerns about the lack of scrutiny of the UK-Australia FTA.

We believe that an extension to the CRAG period is now imperative to allow for proper scrutiny of the UK's first post-Brexit trade deal. There are a number of reasons for this:

- The recent resignation of the Prime Minister and ensuing leadership election means that parliamentarians have not been able to give an appropriate amount of time to consideration of the deal;
- In the past week, new information has become available regarding Government analysis of the impact of the Australia and New Zealand deals on the UK's farming and food production sectors, parliamentarians must be given time to properly consider this;
- The International Trade Committee has set out a number of reasons why it believes an extension is necessary, including the lack of sufficient time between the section 42 report being published and the triggering of the CRAG period. This call was issued with unanimous support from the Committee and supported by the Liaison Committee;
- The Lords International Agreements Committee has also made clear that it expects the Government to hear and respond to issues raised;
- A new Government in Australia, with a mandate to take stronger action on climate change, provides an opportunity to revisit the deal to ensure better alignment with UK climate ambitions and the Paris Agreement;
- The Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) has itself acknowledged that it had a very narrow remit and limited resources to undertake a thorough assessment of the impacts of the deal. There is also no representation of environment or animal welfare organisations on the Commission, weakening its analysis. Despite this, the TAC warned that the deal exposes UK farmers to unfair competition from Australian agri-foods produced using pesticides that are banned in the UK.

Trade deals have far-reaching effects on many areas of daily life and issues of regional, national and global significance. It is essential for parliament to be able to have meaningful and adequate scrutiny of the Australia deal. This is why it is crucial that you now extend the period of parliamentary scrutiny and ensure that post-Brexit deals are able to support UK ambitions on climate, the environment, animal welfare and other crucial issues as well as providing benefits to all sections of the UK economy.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Bergan, Director, Trade Justice Movement

Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive, Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming

Dr Nick Palmer, Head of Compassion in World Farming UK

Asad Rehman, Executive Director, War on Want

Nick Dearden, Director, Global Justice Now

Sarah Williams, Head of Greener UK unit, Greener UK

Rob Percival, Head of Food Policy, Soil Association

Josie Cohen, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK)

Clare Lyons, Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Charlotte Timson, CEO, Traidcraft Exchange

Patti Rundall, Policy Director, Baby Milk Action, IBFAN Global Council

Katie White, Executive Director Advocacy and Campaigns, WWF-UK

Michael Clements, Director of International Programmes, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Chris Sherwood, Chief Executive, RSPCA

Sondhya Gupta, UK Campaigns Lead, SumOfUs

Katie-Jo Luxton, Executive Director, Global Conservation, The RSPB