



Ein cyf/Our ref DC/VG/00469/23

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Affairs Committee
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Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair of Legislation, Justice and Constitution
Committee
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7 June 2023

Dear Paul, Huw

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, to inform you that I attended the Ministerial Forum for Trade on the 23 May.

The meeting was attended by Nigel Huddleston, Minister of State at the Department for Business and Trade; Richard Lohead, Scottish Minister for Small Business, Trade and Innovation and James Davies, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Wales Office. A joint communique regarding the meeting will be issued in due course.

We discussed the latest updates on the India and Canada Free Trade Agreement negotiations as well as the latest developments in the Memoranda of Understanding between the UK and a number of US states, some of which are completed and some of which are at negotiation stage.

Minister Huddleston indicated that he would arrange for the new departmental structure and ministerial responsibility for DBT to be shared with Devolved Governments, I can ensure this is shared with you if you would find it useful.

The meeting provided me with the opportunity to give our views on the current negotiations with India and Canada. I continued to emphasize our view that any trade agreement must support our wider policy aims, including in areas such as the environment and labour. I have always been clear that no trade deal should undermine the high standards we have here in Wales.

For both India and Canada, I also reiterated our view that while we understand there are likely to be trade-offs in any agreement, the UK Government should ensure that any market access agreed for these deals should not impact on important sectors in Wales such as agriculture and steel.

I will write to you again to inform you of the date of the next meeting.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V' and a trailing flourish.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy