



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee –
International Agreements Sub-Committee

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David Rees MS
Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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9 June 2020

House of Lords inquiries on trade negotiations

Dear Mr Rees,

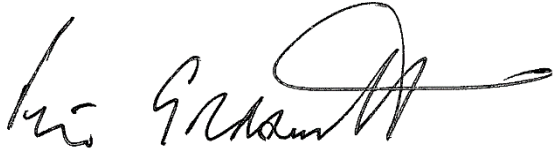
I am writing as the Chair of a new Lords Committee, the International Agreements Sub-Committee, which is currently part of the EU Select Committee 'family' within the Lords structure. Our remit is to scrutinise the UK Government's negotiation and conclusion of international agreements, including free trade agreements. This will include scrutinising concluded agreements under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, as well as conducting forward-looking work on trade negotiations that are under way.

I hope that we might be able to work together constructively in the coming months and years on all international agreements that might be of mutual interest, but I am writing now to let you know about a particular inquiry that we have just launched into the UK-US trade negotiations. I enclose a copy of our Call for Evidence, which illustrates the areas on which we will be focusing during our initial work. We expect this inquiry to run for the length of the negotiations, and we will undoubtedly cover a range of further issues as negotiations progress.

The Committee would very much welcome a response from your Committee to the Call for Evidence. Given that the potential impacts of a deal will be wide-ranging, I know that other committees and members at the Welsh Parliament will also have an interest in these issues, and so I'd be grateful if you could share this letter with other Chairs whose Committees may have an interest.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the EU Select Committee, and Stuart Stoner, Clerk to the EU Select Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Lord Goldsmith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Sub-Committee