



Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG  
Minister of State  
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London  
SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2021/09533

19 May 2021

Dear Sir George

**UK - EU TRADE**

1. Thank you for your email of 12 April, on behalf of your constituent regarding the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) agreed between the UK and EU.
2. The TCA delivers on the Government's commitment to take the UK out of the EU's customs territory and to regain control of our borders. We have always been clear that this means there will be new customs and other processes on goods headed from the UK into the EU, and vice versa.
4. Many businesses have prepared well, and are adapting to the new trading environment. I appreciate, however, this is a period of change for businesses, made all the more challenging by responding to a global pandemic. That is why, following feedback from business representative organisations, we have announced a six month delay to the introduction of many new requirements relating to import controls.
5. I note the launch of the UK Trade and Business Commission and its objective to assess impacts on UK businesses and consumers of international trade deals and Government policy. I look forward to seeing the Commission's findings. The UK's departure from the European Union presents opportunities for us to do things differently and better going forward and the Government is committed to capitalising on these opportunities.

With best wishes,

**Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG**