

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th January 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: TRADE BILL.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the Global Justice Now campaign on the *Trade Bill*.

Contrary to the content of your email, the *Trade Bill*, currently on its passage through Parliament, does not legislate for powers that could be used when implementing new Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with countries with whom the EU does not already have an FTA before exit day. The UK is already party to these trade agreements by virtue of our membership of the EU.

The *Trade Bill* is about preserving and ensuring continuity with the agreements we already have to prevent disruption to our existing trade environment. In addition, we want to protect access to global markets for thousands of British businesses and our citizens alike, as we leave the EU. It is important that we abide by our obligations to those economies that have already negotiated FTAs and other trade agreements with the European Union.

We agree that parliamentary scrutiny is essential and we thoroughly understand the need for democratic accountability. The trade agreements within the scope of this Bill, and which we are intending to transition, will have already been scrutinised by Parliament's EU Committees. Those free trade agreements which the UK has already ratified have also been through the normal parliamentary scrutiny process for international treaties under the *Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010* (CRaG2010).

When we have left the European Union, the UK can begin to forge new trading relationships across the world and strike new FTAs, building a truly global, outward-facing United Kingdom; a country at the very heart of international trade.

The Department for International Trade's White Paper '*Preparing for a Future UK Trade Policy*' commits the Government to a transparent and inclusive trade policy so that concerns are heard and understood, and the right facts are available. It states that:



"Parliament, the devolved administrations, devolved legislatures, local government, business, trade unions, civil society, consumers, employees and the public from every part of the UK will have the opportunity to engage with and contribute to our trade policy, to develop an approach which maximises the benefits felt across UK society and its regions. We will also take into account the views of the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, including Gibraltar."

On public services and standards, the UK Government ensures that decisions about how public services and outcomes are delivered for UK citizens are made by UK governments, including the Devolved Administrations, not our trade partners. As we leave the EU, the UK will continue to ensure that rigorous protections, including for the NHS and other public services, are included in all trade agreements to which it is party.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes,

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**