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Daniel Johnson MSP  
Convener  
Economy and Fair Work Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
By email to:  
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18 March 2026

Dear Daniel,

I am writing to update the Committee on the recent meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Trade (IMG-Trade), held on 04 March 2026.

The IMG-Trade serves as the principal forum for ministerial discussion on international trade matters involving the UK Government, Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Welsh Government. This was the fourth meeting since the change in UK Government in July 2024. Following the previous meeting on 08 January 2026, Sir Chris Bryant MP, Minister for Trade, committed to convening this session ahead of the pre-election periods in Scotland and Wales.

The agenda included the following items:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement
3. US Update
4. UK Steel Trade Measures
5. AOB

Minister Bryant acknowledged the evolving situation in the Middle East and the ongoing trade deal negotiations with both the GCC and the United States. I emphasised the need for continued official-level engagement in the weeks ahead.

Across each agenda item I raised the importance of international trade for various sectors in Scotland. I pressed the UK Government for fuller engagement across a number of matters of importance, including the Airbus/Boeing dispute, and the interaction of UK Steel Trade Measures with the EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

I also raised with Minister Bryant some technical issues relating to exports following discussions I had held with stakeholders. I plan to follow up separately in writing to the Minister on this matter.

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The Committee may wish to note the next IMG-Trade meeting will take place after the Scottish and Welsh elections, once new Ministers have been appointed.

I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have about the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lochhead". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

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