Dear Bruce,

Trade Bill

I am writing to you in relation to an evidence session that the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee held on 15 March on international trade which may be of interest in the context of your Committee’s scrutiny of the Trade Bill LCM.

The evidence we took covered a number of areas, including:

- the EU’s trade agreements with third countries and the potential for these to be “grandfathered” or “rolled-over” by the UK when it leaves the EU;
- the apportioning of existing tariff rate quotas between the EU and the UK when the UK leaves the EU;
- the negotiation of trade agreements by the UK during the transition period;
- the need for the UK to comply with relevant product or service standards if it wishes to trade with the EU;
- the establishment of the UK’s position in the WTO following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU;
- EU requirements in a future trade deal with the UK in relation to taxation, competition and environmental and social legislation;
- the UK Government’s capacity to negotiate trade deals;
• investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms;
• the importance of parliamentary scrutiny of trade deals;
• the engagement of the Canadian provinces in the negotiation of trade deals;
• public procurement and trade deals; and rules of origin and geographical indications.

In addition, the evidence highlighted the complexity and the time involved in negotiating the UK’s future trading relationship.

I hope that this information is useful to you in your consideration of the LCM.

Kind regards,

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee