



Department for International Trade

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
House of Commons
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29th March 2018

Dear Angus,

Over the past year the Department for International Trade has been working to develop a trade remedies framework for the UK to protect domestic industries against injury caused by unfair trading practices. As part of this process we intend to establish a new non-departmental public body, the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA), which is currently being legislated for by the Trade Bill. The TRA will be a UK-wide body responsible for conducting trade remedies investigations and proposing measures to remove any injury suffered by UK industry caused by dumping, subsidies or unforeseen surges of imports. The TRA's functions are set out in the Taxation (Cross-Border Trade) Bill.

We will shortly begin recruitment for the non-executive Chair of the TRA. The Chair will be recruited prior to the establishment of the TRA to allow him or her to develop its corporate governance structures and strategic vision. The Chair will also be consulted on the appointment of TRA non-executive Board members by the Secretary of State, as set out in the Trade Bill. The Chair will oversee the TRA through set up into its crucial early years, and will lead the Board in holding the body's performance to account.

While statutory responsibility for appointing the TRA Chair rests with the Secretary of State for International Trade, including finalising the job advertisement and broader recruitment process, I am clear that the TRA Board should retain its independence, impartiality and expertise. Our priority is designing a body with the right skills to effectively operate a function that businesses can trust. As part of this, the TRA must reach recommendations on trade remedies cases on behalf of the entire UK – not just England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland alone.

I am conscious of your role as a Chair of the International Trade Committee, where public appointments to the TRA has recently been discussed. In particular, there were concerns that the TRA's senior leadership would not have the right skills to take into account a wide range of perspectives.

Therefore I am writing to inform you that I will be inviting input from the Devolved Administrations and key external stakeholders – including domestic industry, trade union and consumer groups – on the content of the TRA Chair job description and person specification. This will ensure that the TRA Chair has the skills and experience necessary to lead an organisation responsible for delivering an objective trade remedies investigation process for the whole UK.

I look forward to working with you to establish the TRA in a way that enables it to provide a safety net to businesses across the entire UK.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Libraries.

*yours sincerely,
Liam*

THE RT HON DR LIAM FOX MP
Secretary of State, Department for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade