



Department for International Trade

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Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to confirm that I shall be stepping down today, at the end of my agreed term, as Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion in the Department for International Trade. It has been a privilege to serve in this government. As now established, the Department brings together three key levers to support trade; developing and implementing trade policy, attracting investment from overseas and supporting UK businesses to export across the globe.

My role was dedicated to supporting UK exporters and those who work for them. I leave with an even greater belief in the world-beating capabilities and innovative flair of UK businesses, large and small, from all around our country. They truly are inspiring. And having had the honour of representing them on overseas trade missions, I am struck by the clear and growing demand for their goods and services. British companies are respected not just for their quality and creativity but for their approach to business and their integrity.

It was with a real sense of pride that I led our Export Strategy, which aims to grow UK exports from 30% to 35% of GDP. The strategy was developed for and with businesses; it focuses on areas where only government can help; it links with HMG's first-class Industrial Strategy, encourages joined-up government approaches and has been embraced by UK companies and their representatives. It is implemented through four key activities: encouraging businesses to export, informing them, connecting them and helping finance them. The momentum is set to continue with DIT already working on further enhancements.

My work in the House of Lords, notably on the Trade Bill, has been the focus of recent months. When passed into law, it will ensure that future governments have the power to deliver trade continuity for our businesses and to protect them from unfair practices. I have been struck by the commitment and expertise of peers and by the collaborative and constructive approach that was adopted. It has been an honour to work on such matters with the House.

As I leave, I want to salute the work of the Secretary of State and Ministers at the Department for International Trade and the people working in our superb Civil Service. Nothing could have been achieved without them.

As agreed when I assumed my ministerial role, I now plan to resume my career in the private sector. However, having experienced the fulfilment of serving the public, you can be sure that I will seek to contribute again in some capacity in the future.

In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve and to send you my very best wishes and regards.

*Yours ever,
Rona*

Baroness Fairhead

Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion
Department for International Trade