



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 May 2020

Dear Conor,

Thank you for your letter in which you resigned as Minister of State for Trade Policy following the report from the Parliamentary Committee on Standards.

I am very grateful for the huge amount you have done since I became Prime Minister to drive forward the UK's international trade agenda, and to champion UK businesses overseas at this critical time as we expand our trade horizons as a nation.

In particular, I am grateful to you for the work you have done to secure 48 continuity agreements, accounting for £110 billion of UK trade in 2018 and representing 74 per cent of the trade with countries with whom we were seeking continuity before the Withdrawal Agreement was signed. This will ensure that UK businesses will continue to enjoy beneficial trading arrangements with these countries at the end of the transition period. Your work has ensured that the UK is ready to start new trade negotiations with third countries around the world, as shown by the US Free Trade Agreement negotiations that are launching this week.

I am personally grateful for all your support and unstinting loyalty over recent years, not least as my Parliamentary Private Secretary during my time as Foreign Secretary and in the months that followed. You have been a great champion for our Party throughout your career and I know that you will continue to add much from the backbenches.

Thank you again for your service.

*Best wishes
as ever,
Boris*

The Right Honourable Conor Burns MP