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24 July 2025

Professor Lorand Bartels  
Chair, Trade and Agriculture Commission

Dear Professor Bartels,

**India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) - request for Trade and Agriculture Commission advice**

I am writing to request the TAC's advice on the UK's agreement to enter into a Free Trade Agreement with India, which was signed on 24 July 2025 in Chequers. I am publishing this letter on gov.uk.

In line with the TAC Terms of Reference, which can be found on gov.uk, I request your advice on whether, or to what extent, the measures in the Indian FTA ("the agreement") that are applicable to trade in agricultural products are consistent with the maintenance of UK levels of statutory protection in relation to:

- c) animal or plant life or health;
- c) animal welfare; and
- c) environmental protections.

Please produce this advice on a chapter-by-chapter basis. The TAC is welcome to include additional sections as it sees fit. In producing its report, I would envisage that the TAC would:

- Conduct an initial assessment of which chapters it considers to be in/out of scope (i.e. which contain measures relating to trade in agricultural products);
- Consider all relevant measures within in-scope chapters.

Regarding relevant measures within in-scope chapters, consider the following questions:

- Does the agreement require a change to UK domestic statutory protections in relation to animal or plant life or health; animal welfare; and the environment?

- Does the agreement affect the UK Government's ability to set statutory protections in these specified areas?
- Does the agreement underline any existing UK domestic statutory protections – or in some instances go beyond them – in relation to: animal or plant life or health; animal welfare; and the environment?

The TAC should also:

- Consider the landscape of statutory protections across the UK, reflecting on all parts of the UK.
- Consult those it considers may assist in the preparation of this advice and note in the advice – where relevant – those whom the TAC consulted.
- Given the Government's trade agenda is of interest to many, consider how to make its advice accessible and readable to a non-technical audience.

Advice received from the TAC will be laid before Parliament in its own right and reflected in the Government's own section 42 report. I therefore ask that you submit your advice electronically to the TAC Secretariat ([TACSecretariat@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:TACSecretariat@businessandtrade.gov.uk)) no later than 24 October 2025.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON DOUGLAS ALEXANDER MP**  
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security  
Department for Business and Trade