



Republic of Korea No. 1 (2025)

Exchange of Notes

amending the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea

Seoul, 24 October 2025

[The Agreement is not in force]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of His Majesty
November 2025*



© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/official-documents

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at Treaty Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH

ISBN 978-1-5286-6058-7

E03482825 11/25

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Global on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES AMENDING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Note No. 1

British Embassy Seoul to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

*Seoul
24 October 2025*

Note Verbale No: 103-25/2025

The Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Korea (the "British Embassy" or the "British Embassy Seoul") presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and has the honour to refer to the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea, done at London on 22 August 2019 ("the Agreement"), and to the Exchange of Notes Amending the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea, done at Seoul on 7 November 2023 ("the 2023 Exchange of Notes").

The British Embassy also refers to the recent discussions between our two Governments concerning negotiations to build on the existing terms of the Agreement, in accordance with Article 15.5bis of the Agreement, and the commitment of our two Governments to upgrade the rules of origin in the Agreement as part of those negotiations.

In accordance with Article 15.5 of the Agreement, and further to discussions which have taken place between the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic of Korea respectively, the British Embassy has the honour to propose the following amendments to the Protocol concerning the definition of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation to the Agreement ("the Protocol"), which will have the effect of replacing the amendments contained in the 2023 Exchange of Notes:

1. In Article 3 of the Protocol (Cumulation of origin), footnote 1 to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be replaced with the following:

"Cumulation with the EU as provided for in Article 3 will cease to apply on 1 July 2027, or on the date of entry into force of a legally binding instrument to upgrade the Agreement, whichever is earlier. The Parties shall continue to seek and work towards mutually beneficial and business-friendly rules of origin in the future which facilitate trade between Korea and the UK."

2. In Article 13 of the Protocol (Direct transport), footnote 2 to paragraph 1 shall be replaced with the following:

"In line with the review period referenced in footnote 1 of Article 3, "or

through the EU" shall be deemed to be deleted from paragraph 1 of Article 13 on 1 July 2027, or on the date of entry into force of a legally binding instrument to upgrade the Agreement, whichever is earlier."

If the aforementioned proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Korea, the British Embassy has further the honour to propose that this Note together with the Note of the Republic of Korea in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments amending the Agreement. The British Embassy proposes that, in accordance with Article 15.5 of the Agreement, this agreement amending the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later notification in an exchange of written notifications between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea confirming that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures, or on such date as may be agreed.

The British Embassy Seoul avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note No. 2

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to the British Embassy Seoul

Seoul
24 October 2025

ORE-9541

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Korea (the "British Embassy" or the "British Embassy Seoul") and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of proposing Note Verbale 103-25 dated 24 October 2025 of the British Embassy, which reads as follows:

"The Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Korea (the "British Embassy" or the "British Embassy Seoul") presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and has the honour to refer to the *Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea*, done at London on 22 August 2019 ("the Agreement"), and to the *Exchange of Notes Amending the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea*, done at Seoul on 7 November 2023 ("the 2023 Exchange of Notes").

The British Embassy also refers to the recent discussions between our two Governments concerning negotiations to build on the existing terms of the Agreement, in accordance with Article 15.5bis of the Agreement, and the commitment of our two Governments to upgrade the rules of origin in the

Agreement as part of those negotiations.

In accordance with Article 15.5 of the Agreement, and further to discussions which have taken place between the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic of Korea respectively, the British Embassy has the honour to propose the following amendments to the Protocol concerning the definition of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation to the Agreement ("the Protocol"), which will have the effect of replacing the amendments contained in the 2023 Exchange of Notes:

1. In Article 3 of the Protocol (Cumulation of origin), footnote 1 to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be replaced with the following:

"Cumulation with the EU as provided for in Article 3 will cease to apply on 1 July 2027, or on the date of entry into force of a legally binding instrument to upgrade the Agreement, whichever is earlier. The Parties shall continue to seek and work towards mutually beneficial and business-friendly rules of origin in the future which facilitate trade between Korea and the UK."

2. In Article 13 of the Protocol (Direct transport), footnote 2 to paragraph 1 shall be replaced with the following:

"In line with the review period referenced in footnote 1 of Article 3, "or through the EU" shall be deemed to be deleted from paragraph 1 of Article 13 on 1 July 2027, or on the date of entry into force of a legally binding instrument to upgrade the Agreement, whichever is earlier."

If the aforementioned proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Korea, the British Embassy has further the honour to propose that this Note together with the Note of the Republic of Korea in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments amending the Agreement. The British Embassy proposes that, in accordance with Article 15.5 of the Agreement, this agreement amending the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later notification in an exchange of written notifications between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea confirming that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures, or on such date as may be agreed.

The British Embassy Seoul avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea the assurances of its highest consideration."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea has the further honor to accept the proposal and confirms that the British Embassy' s proposing Note and this replying Note shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments amending the Agreement. This agreement amending the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later notification in an exchange of written notifications between the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom confirming that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures, or on such date as may be agreed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the British Embassy Seoul the assurances of its highest consideration.

978-1-5286-6058-7
E03482825