

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

2 September 2020

Dear Greg

I am aware that an announcement of Agreement in Principle on the UK-Japan FTA is due imminently. While I appreciate the importance of concluding this agreement quickly, in order to provide continuity of trade, I am also concerned that the pace of negotiations may mean that it is not possible to include text in the agreement on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR).

My colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeane Freeman MSP, wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 10 August 2020, copied to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for International Trade on this issue. In her letter she made clear that leaving this key text out of the UK-Japan FTA would be unacceptable and would set an unwelcome precedent for the other trade negotiations that are ongoing. She has yet to receive a reply to her letter.

Failure to secure a commitment in the UK-Japan FTA to tackling Anti-Microbial Resistance, which reduces the ability of antibiotics to tackle infections, would be a missed opportunity for the UK Government to show it is serious about AMR in future negotiations. I would therefore like to seek your assurance, in the event it is not included in the FTA itself, the UK Government will address AMR through other means, such as ambitious and effective side-letters with Japan. I would expect there to be meaningful engagement with devolved administrations to ensure that the proposed text meets our objectives.

I would also like your assurance that the UK Government will push for AMR to be included in the relevant SPS chapter text of agreements with the USA, Australia and New Zealand as well as any future trade agreements.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



Accredited
Until 2020



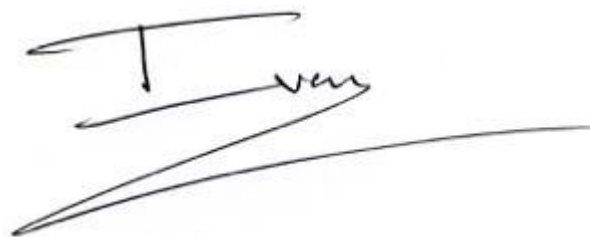
As stated in the UK Government's National Action Plan [Tackling Anti-Microbial Resistance 2019-24](#): "Already, AMR infections are estimated to cause 700,000 deaths each year globally. That figure is predicted to rise to 10 million, alongside a cumulative cost of \$100 trillion, by 2050 if no action is taken. AMR also threatens many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". This action needs to involve preventing the use of antibiotics as growth promoters within food production.

The UK Government's 20-year vision for AMR envisages working together internationally to address the issue – a vision the Scottish Government supports. While we will of course continue to work with you on a 4-nation basis to progress this shared vision, it would be very disappointing if, at one of the earliest opportunities to advance this internationally, you failed to do so. Be assured that you have our support in pressing hard for its inclusion within all future trade agreements, and in return we expect full engagement on this important matter, which clearly impacts on the responsibilities of this government and all the devolved administrations.

I look forward to receiving your assurances on this and my Ministerial colleagues and I would welcome further discussion.

I am copying this letter to Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language in the Welsh Government and Diane Dodds MLA, Minister for the Economy in the Northern Ireland Executive.

Best regards,



IVAN MCKEE

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



Accredited
Until 2020

