



UK Mission
Geneva

7 April 2020

Roberto Azevêdo
Director-General
WTO

**From the Permanent
Representative**

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Dear Director-General,

TRANSPARENCY ON THE UK'S EXCEPTIONAL COVID-19 TRADE MEASURES

The United Kingdom strongly supports the statement by G20 Trade and Investment Ministers on 30 March 2020 calling for all trade measures taken in response to COVID-19 to be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary. This will help ensure that critical goods get to those who need them, and help reduce the long-term global economic consequences of this pandemic.

I am grateful for the work the WTO is now doing to record such trade measures, and I would like to support your call for Members to share in a timely manner the details of both trade restricting and trade liberalizing measures they are taking, so that all WTO Members and their businesses can be better informed.

To that end, I hereby submit an overview of the trade measures relevant to COVID-19 that have been implemented in the United Kingdom so far. This is in addition to any European Union-wide measures which have been taken. You will recall that during the time-limited transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom, European Union law, as modified by the Withdrawal Agreement, applies to and in the United Kingdom. Therefore relevant European Union regulations apply to and in the United Kingdom for the duration of the transition period.

The United Kingdom is committed to enhancing transparency within the WTO, and to that end I would be grateful if you could publish this communication and the attached annex on the United Kingdom's Member page on the WTO Website. We will continue to liaise with Members and the WTO on these issues, and provide information on any further exceptional COVID-19 trade measures, as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JNBraithwaite'.

JULIAN BRAITHWAITE

Cc:

Tim Yeend, WTO

Trineesh Biswas, WTO

Keith Rockwell, WTO

Robert Koopman, WTO