



Rt Hon. Elizabeth Truss  
Secretary of State for International Trade  
Department for International Trade  
King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2AH  
Email: [truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk](mailto:truss.correspondence@trade.gov.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Ms Truss,

**Airbus/Boeing dispute US review of punitive tariffs July 2020**

GMB is UK's third largest trade union, with members across a wide range of manufacturing as well as public and commercial services.

GMB members in the Scotch Whisky industry have been badly hit by punitive tariffs imposed on Single Malt Whisky from October 2019, with a major drop in exports following implementation of the tariffs.

The US has now launched a consultation on review of the tariffs, with the potential for existing tariffs to be increased, and products on other Annex lists to be added to the tariff measures. The Annex lists include blended Scotch whiskies and Gin. The inclusion of these products in any review of the tariffs would threaten thousands of vital jobs in the spirits industry in Scotland, which has already taken a disproportionate hit from these tariff measures.

GMB also has major concerns that other sectors of our membership may become victim to tariff imposition as part of the review. We strongly oppose tariffs being imposed on ceramics and tableware, textiles and clothing and on lifting machinery, which could negatively impact on companies such as JCB as these companies struggle to come out of the pandemic.

GMB notes that, as Secretary of State, you have voiced concerns that UK interests are not being properly defended by EU Trade negotiators in this trade dispute. We therefore call on the Government to take up direct negotiating action with the US Government to ensure that current punitive tariffs are removed, and that no further UK products are added in the review process.

GMB believes that if the US is serious about a trade deal with the UK, they would remove all punitive tariff action as a show of good will, and that this should be a pre-requisite on the side of the UK Government before there is any further progress towards a UK-US deal.

/Cont.....

We call on the Government to intervene to resolve this dispute as quickly as possible, before more highly skilled and valuable UK Manufacturing jobs are sacrificed on top of the damaging effects of the pandemic.

We look forward to hearing from you with Government progress on removing the threat to our members' jobs.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jude Brimble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jude Brimble  
**National Secretary GMB Manufacturing**