



The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

17 December 2021

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2DY

Dear Secretary of State

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 December 2021, which reads as follows:

“In connection with the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Australia (“the Agreement”), I have the honour to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the United Kingdom”) and the Government of Australia (“Australia”) during the course of the negotiation of the Agreement:

1. *The United Kingdom and Australia share a commitment to the effective regulation of medical devices and medicines, including veterinary medicines, to protect human and animal health.*
2. *The United Kingdom and Australia recognise the importance of ensuring medical devices and medicines, including veterinary medicines, are safe and fit for their intended purpose.*
3. *In this regard, the United Kingdom and Australia will strengthen their cooperation on issues of mutual interest regarding the regulation of medical devices and medicines, including veterinary medicines.*
4. *Such cooperation may relate to:*
 - (a) *the medicines supply chain and its security;*
 - (b) *evolving areas, in particular improving the international response to global health threats, including epidemics;*
 - (c) *the promotion of dialogue on scientific matters and the exchange of information on regulatory activities, including to enhance patient and animal safety,*

pharmacovigilance and market surveillance for medical devices and medicines between their agencies;

(d) collaboration through relevant international initiatives, including to support greater regulatory harmonisation of their respective regulations and regulatory activities for medical devices and medicines; and

(e) exploring opportunities for collaboration on regulating new and innovative medical devices and medicines.

I look forward to your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding.”

I have the further honour to confirm that my Government shares this understanding.

Yours sincerely



DAN TEHAN