June 2020

Thank you for contacting me about trade and the environment.

It is important to stress that boosting trade does not have to come at the expense of the environment.

My Ministerial colleagues and I share the public’s high regard for the environmental protections we have here in the UK and are committed to seeing these valuable protections upheld in any future trade agreement.

I am reassured that the Department for International Trade is looking closely at all the options available for the design of future trade agreements, including the full range of mechanisms on offer for safeguarding the UK’s high environmental standards.

Consultations will also run ahead of any trade negotiations, providing the public with a meaningful opportunity to have their say on, for example, environmental standards. I welcome that collectively over 600,000 responses were submitted to the consultations on trade negotiations with the US, Australia and New Zealand, as well as on potential UK accession to CPTPP.

More broadly, the Government continues to encourage export and investment opportunities in clean growth sectors, for example in smart energy systems, offshore wind, and the manufacture of electric vehicles. In addition, in the run up to COP26, and during the summit, I know that Ministers are keen to maximise trade and investment opportunities in clean growth sectors.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**