



Department for
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Dear Sarah, Wendy,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July, in which you call for reciprocal social security agreements, including the uprating of state pensions, to be brought within scope of our trade negotiations.

The UK has an ambitious programme of Free Trade Agreement negotiations to help our nation become a truly Global Britain. We have agreed trade deals with 71 countries plus the EU, partners that accounted for £808bn of UK bilateral trade in 2021.

The uprating of state pensions has not, however, formed part of our trade discussions with trade partners, and we have no plans to begin such discussions in trade negotiations. I would suggest that you raise the matter of reciprocal social security agreements with my Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whose department is primarily responsible for this policy area.

Best wishes,

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade