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19m March 2016

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your email of 29 February, to Anna Soubry, about the UK reading room for classified documents relating to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). I am replying as the Minister responsible.

The TTIP reading room is not yet open. Members of both Houses will be informed of the process and details of how to access the room shortly, once these have been finalised.

The Government supports greater transparency in trade negotiations and we are pleased therefore that the European Commission has adopted a more open approach for TTIP. It has published a number of EU proposals for legal text in the agreement, position papers, and a series of factsheets setting out the EU's aims for this agreement. The reading room we intend to establish in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will give Members of both Houses equivalent access to classified TTIP documents, including consolidated texts, to that afforded to Members of the European Parliament.

Parliament already oversees the TTIP negotiations via updates from Ministers. TTIP has been debated in the House of Commons on five occasions and once in the House of Lords. It has also been considered by four Parliamentary committees (House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee / Business, Innovation and Skills Committee / Environmental Audit Committee / House of Lords EU Committee). The Government's response to committee reports on this trade deal can be found on the TTIP page of the Gov.UK website (in the 'How Parliament is involved' section). The web address is given below.

We expect that TTIP will be a "mixed" agreement, covering areas of both EU and Member State competence. In that case, it will be subject to agreement by each EU Member State, the EU Council and the European Parliament. As part of this process the agreement will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny before it is ratified by the UK.

Further information about the TTIP negotiations is available on the Gov.UK website:  
[www.gov.uk/bis/ttip](http://www.gov.uk/bis/ttip) and the European Commission's website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

Yours, as ever  
Jayce

**RT HON BARONESS ANELAY OF ST. JOHNS DBE**

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Minister  
of State