



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

CPTPP and Parliamentary Scrutiny of Trade Deals:

I am pro-trade, pro-business and pro-worker, and I welcome the opening up of new markets for UK exporters. I am therefore committed to increasing our trade with our CPTPP partners. Nevertheless, it is vital that we scrutinise the full details of what the Government has signed up to in this agreement. I believe, for example, that the Government needs to make clear how the joint statement it has made with Malaysia will deal with concerns raised over palm oil.

I therefore appreciate the concerns raised about parliamentary scrutiny of CPTPP and of free trade agreements in general. If trade is to be a force for good, boosting growth at home, while driving progress on climate change, human rights and working conditions across the globe, it needs effective scrutiny.

However, in my view, the Government has avoided this, including in relation to its trade deals with Australia and New Zealand. As a result, I believe that where free trade agreements have been signed, they have undercut British workers and failed to stand up for British values.

I believe the Government needs to overhaul the wider scrutiny process on trade negotiations to allow greater opportunities for parliament to scrutinise these agreements. This should include timely and meaningful debate on negotiating objectives, with all nations and regions of the UK able to contribute properly to help set the parameters of trade talks.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk