

SECOND JOINT PUBLIC SESSION ON THE NEW ZEALAND-UNITED KINGDOM FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR CHAPTERS

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

JOINT PUBLIC SESSION CHAIR'S STATEMENT

A second Joint Public Session (JPS) held under the auspices of the NZ/UK Free Trade Agreement was held virtually on 17 March 2026 NZT (16 March 2026 UKT). The session was designed as an open forum for public stakeholders to discuss the implementation of environment and labour commitments under the FTA.

The JPS was moderated by the Chair of the New Zealand Domestic Advisory Group, assisted by the Chair of the United Kingdom Domestic Advisory Group. Members of both Domestic Advisory Groups and civil society representatives from both countries participated in the meeting.

The dialogue in the meeting focused on specific articles and provisions of the environment and labour chapters of the FTA including:

- Article 22.6: Climate change
- Article 22.8: Fossil fuel subsidy reform and transition to clean energy
- Article 22.10: Sustainable agriculture
- Article 22.19: Co-operation
- Article 23.5: Labour rights
- Article 23.8: Non-Discrimination and gender equality in the workplace
- Article 23.9: Modern Slavery.

Participants were offered the opportunity to identify ideas and concerns related to the implementation of commitments under the FTA. Officials from both countries were offered the opportunity for comment.

The Chair noted that the discussion at the session had been wide-ranging, robust and encouraging. Public minutes of the JPS would be made available at a later date.