



# PSA Submission

## On a UK-NZ Trade Agreement

February 2019

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## About the PSA

The New Zealand Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi (the PSA) is the largest trade union in New Zealand with over 70,000 members. We are a democratic organisation representing members in the public service, the wider state sector (the district health boards, crown research institutes and other crown entities), state owned enterprises, local government, tertiary education institutions and non-governmental organisations working in the health, social services and community sectors.

The PSA has been advocating for strong, innovative and effective public and community services since our establishment in 1913. People join the PSA to negotiate their terms of employment collectively, to have a voice within their workplace and to have an independent public voice on the quality of public and community services and how they're delivered.

PSA member networks, Te Runanga and sector committees have been invited to comment on the Amendment Bill and their views are appended. The PSA has also repeated illustrative comments in the body of this submission.

The PSA is an affiliate of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU) and supports the Trade for All Agenda submission of the CTU made previously in relation to free trade agreements (FTAs).

## The PSA's position

The UK is a major financial, educational, and other commercial services centre (e.g. Serco). It has privatised many services which used to be provided publicly such as water and rail transport. The PSA is concerned that the UK might have an interest to further pursue the private provision of (formerly) public services through a FTA with New Zealand (NZ). In relation to possible privatisation

intentions pressure might be exercised by the UK to further deregulate the finance sector which would increase risks of financial instability.

The PSA would like to highlight the relevance of the Council of Trade Unions' submission on the 'Trade for All Agenda'. We would like to draw attention to considering the nature of trade integration and the goals to be pursued with it. We believe that the trade policy principles put forward by the CTU promote a fair society, maximise the opportunities and minimise the risks associated with global issues. They are essential for being considered in a UK-NZ FTA:

- Environmental issues including climate change
- Protecting New Zealanders' health and wellbeing
- Labour rights
- Gender equity
- The rights of indigenous peoples
- SME participation in international markets
- Inclusive regional economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable job creation
- Protecting traditional knowledge
- Preserving the right of governments to regulate in the public interest, including for national land markets, taxation of multinational businesses and public services

The UK-NZ FTA should respect, protect and fulfil the right of the NZ government to directly provide public services. Privatisation and deregulation pressures mustn't influence a UK-NZ FTA but the objective to promote a fair and sustainable NZ in which inequalities are decreased and productive and meaningful economic opportunities for all are enhanced.

Thank you for seriously considering our concerns and for being guided by the above principles when negotiating a UK-NZ FTA.

For further information, please contact:

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