

NEW ZEALAND - BILATERAL VISIT TO AUCKLAND & WELLINGTON

REPORT SUMMARY

9-14 APRIL 2018



IMPACT & OUTCOMES

Impact.

To build knowledge and understanding of shared national and regional issues through exchanges with parliamentary colleagues, and further develop the good relationship between the UK Parliament and the Parliament of New Zealand.

Outcomes.

Through a programme of meetings, briefings, plenary sessions and interactive discussions, the programme will deliver the following outcomes:

Outcome 1. Foster a strong relationship between the UK Parliament and Parliament of New Zealand, and share challenges and solutions in parliamentary management, practice and procedure.

Outcome 2. Discuss issues of mutual interest, including:

- The current political situation in the UK and New Zealand, and the approach to coalition and minority government;
- The impact of Brexit on UK-New Zealand relations;
- The oversight of trade policy in New Zealand and the status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership;
- The trade and investment relationship;
- Defence and security cooperation focusing on national security and intelligence sharing;
- The role of the Commonwealth;
- New Zealand's foreign policy and regional relations;
- Domestic policy areas including environmental policy, disaster resilience, and immigration policy.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

A bilateral programme saw a UK delegation comprised of four Members of the House of Commons and two Members of the House of Lords engage with parliamentary colleagues, business, and civil society to discuss issues and challenges relevant to the UK and New Zealand. Key topics of discussion included:

- **The state of international relations, particularly the current geopolitical relations between Russia and the UK and its allies.**
- **The above discussions were made more pertinent by developments in the Syrian conflict that unfolded during the visit.**
- **Domestic policy, including a focus on immigration, both in the UK and in NZ.**
- **Environmental concerns, both**

in terms of preserving the natural landscape for future generations, and to ensure that the unique agricultural conditions are maintained.

- **Parliamentary practice, particularly with a focus on proxy voting, newly implemented in New Zealand and the focus of discussion in the UK.**
- **Trade relationships between the two countries, and the different forms a post-Brexit trade relationship might take.**

The bilateral element of the delegation was followed by the Pacific Islands Parliamentary Workshop which provided an opportunity to engage with parliamentarians from ten Pacific Island countries on areas of mutual interest. This has been covered in a separate report.



The UK delegation and the Pacific Island Workshop delegates

SUPPORTED BY:



British High Commission
Wellington

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NEW ZEALAND - BILATERAL VISIT TO AUCKLAND & WELLINGTON

FULL REPORT

9 - 14 APRIL 2018

CPA UK & New Zealand

CPA UK and CPA New Zealand have a long history of facilitating successful parliamentary bilateral delegations on behalf of their respective legislatures. Recent activities between the two legislatures have included a bilateral delegation to Auckland and Wellington exploring the future of the NZ/UK relationship including the potential for future trade agreements and how these might be scrutinised by parliament. The delegation also discussed with their counterparts a range of issues including defence and security; environmental and domestic policy; parliamentary procedure; and the role of the Commonwealth.

The delegation also took part in a Pacific Islands workshop with their counterparts from Pacific Island legislatures. This two-day workshop focused on both technical and thematic areas of interest and enabled a frank discussion of some of the challenges facing the Pacific Island States. This workshop also allowed the UK delegation to understand in more detail the geopolitical nuances of the region.

New Zealand will continue to be a key partner, especially in the post-Brexit landscape, as the UK seeks to renew its relationships with its Commonwealth colleagues.



The delegation meet with members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association New Zealand Branch

In April a delegation of UK Members and Peers travelled to New Zealand to explore a variety of thematic and technical areas of parliamentary business. This visit was coordinated in partnership with CPA NZ, who organised a range of meetings with Members and officials in a variety of thematic areas of interest indicated by the UK delegation. **Trade was a key area of discussion in almost all meetings.** Subsequently a separate report exploring these discussions has been produced, and attached as an annex to this report. Summaries of other topics of discussion are laid out below.

PACIFIC ISLANDS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In meetings with academics, ministers, officials, and Members the delegation discussed the **current geopolitical relationships in the Pacific, including the relative influence of NZ, Australia, China, and the UK, and the trend of increasing Chinese influence in the region.**

These discussions touched on the complexity of regional issues including **immigration, education, fisheries,** and the varied political systems which govern each island. These meetings also prepared the delegation for the second half of the visit, the Pacific Island Parliamentary Workshop, where the UK delegation discussed parliamentary challenges with counterparts from

neighbouring countries.

Discussions were also held around the ongoing **conflict in Syria**, which was dominating news headlines during the visit. Disappointment was expressed regarding the failure of the UN to make significant steps in resolving the conflict, but emphasis was given to the importance of the **UN's legal processes and international rule of law.** In turn this led to discussion of **Russia's role in the Syrian conflict**, and its wider machinations, including the recent expulsion of diplomats across the globe following the poisoning of Yulia and Sergei Skripal. The delegation discussed New Zealand's support for the UK in this matter, and the benefits of the **Five Eyes intelligence sharing.** The ongoing **conflict in West Papua** was also brought up in discussions, focusing on the recent referendum to which it was argued that the international community has turned a blind eye.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

As a significant sector of New Zealand's economy, and given the expertise of the delegation, meetings were held to discuss the respective **agricultural markets of both countries.** A significant point of discussion was the importance of strict **regulations in maintaining an environment free from contamination.** NZ

Members discussed how imported diseases and genetic material was an economic threat, and government officials take extreme steps to ensure any outbreak is rapidly dealt with. It was suggested that regulations ensuring the maintenance of optimal agricultural conditions were one of the reasons NZ products were so highly regarded, which in turn had to led to great demand in overseas markets, particularly China. The significance of the **Brexit vote on the UK's environmental protections was also discussed**, and how the UK might learn from NZ in maintaining a high standard of agricultural produce. **China's poor environmental protections** was suggested as a contributing factor to the demand for agricultural produce.

The focus on protecting the environment was a big domestic focus. Members from the Environment Committee were holding an [evidence session on single-use plastics¹](#), and went on to emphasise the significance of the natural environment to the national economy, both in terms of agriculture, but also tourism. Legislation strengthening NZ's commitment to the environment was expected by the Committee, and **Members highlighted how over 80% of NZ's domestic energy was sourced from renewable sources, and how transport that utilised renewable sources was a focus for the new government.**

IMMIGRATION

After trade, **immigration was one of the most commonly discussed areas across all meetings.** On a domestic front the delegation discussed with various stakeholders the impact of immigration from Pacific Islands, and the changing demographics of communities, particularly in the larger cities such as Auckland. It was also clear that the UK's immigration system was viewed negatively across a whole range of stakeholders, whether businesses, officials, or Members. It was emphasised how, over the course of a generation, the **UK had diminished in appeal as a popular destination for young people** for their 'overseas experience' in favour of countries such as China, Japan, and other European countries. The UK's close ties with the EU, and ability to

travel freely in the EU was also cited as a benefit of using the UK as a base. **Brexit has diminished the standing of the UK in this regard.** Members also emphasised how stories in the national press commenting on the difficulty of travelling to the UK was damaging the reputation of the UK in the public sphere. The **'tens of thousands' immigration target was described as a 'blunt instrument'**, and it was discussed that easing of these restrictions was likely to be a factor in trade negotiations.

PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Meetings held with parliamentary officials and the Electoral Commission provided an insight into the subtleties of the differing systems and procedures. There was particularly **lively debate around the benefits and drawbacks of proxy voting, recently adopted in NZ.** The UK's own Procedure Committee was undertaking an inquiry into the possibility of proxy voting in the House of Commons, and hence this experience was of particular interest².

The presentation given by the Electoral Commissioner was also well received. Points of discussion focused on the **compulsory registration in NZ**, and the novel methods utilised by the electoral commission to **increase voter engagement.** This meeting also enabled an exploration of the **Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system utilised in NZ**, and the effect of having both constituency and proportional representation. It was suggested that this system has also contributed to the prevalence of coalitions, an increasingly common feature of UK politics.

DOMESTIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Its geographical location means that **NZ is prone to natural disasters, earthquakes, tsunamis and flooding** amongst others. Subsequently meetings discussed how the government prepares itself for such events, and in meetings with Members and officials discussions focused on how the threats from such disasters can be mitigated.

1 "Business before Committees." *New Zealand Parliament*, [link](#)

2 "Publications - Voting by Proxy in the House of Commons Inquiry." *UK Parliament, Procedure Committee*, [link](#)



The delegation visit the Pukeahu National War Memorial, Wellington

MONITORING & EVALUATION: KEY RESULTS

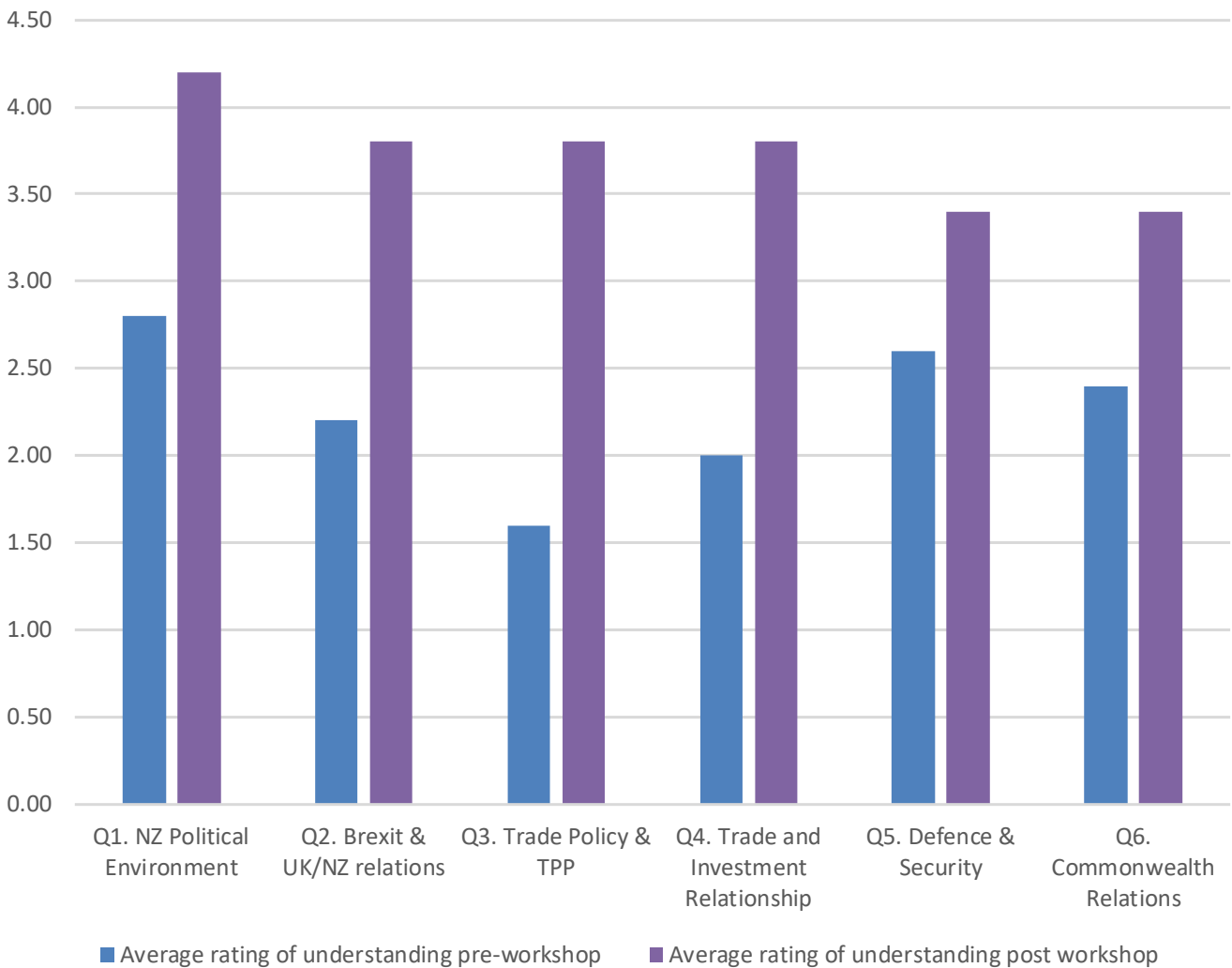
The feedback given by members of the delegation produced the following quantitative results that illustrate a demonstrable increase in understanding across all areas addressed in the programme outcomes.

As illustrated below there was a particular increase in understanding of New Zealand's trade policy, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, now known as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Trade was indicated as an area of particular interest by the delegation, especially given the attention likely to be given to new trade agreements in the near future.

These results are backed up by qualitative feedback given by the delegation, which indicated that much of what was discussed would be of great use in the parliamentary responsibilities of members, whether in government or opposition, Commons or Lords.

“
...meetings with business community in Auckland and talks on trade with NZ MPs gave a great insight into their views and lots to take back to the UK...
”

UK Member of the delegation



NEXT STEPS

- During the visit members of the delegation agreed upon a joint report detailing their findings in regards to the potential for a future trade agreement, and the official, parliamentary, and business perspectives on the challenges and opportunities this would present. This report was presented to members of both houses in a lunch time briefing, and was circulated to members of relevant committees.
- A meeting has also been organised between the delegation and the New Zealand High Commissioner to the UK to discuss the findings of the visit and how inter-parliamentary cooperation can be continued.

Bilateral Programme

Monday 9 April - Thursday 12 April

Monday 9 April	
0900	British Consulate General Auckland: Briefing from Consul General & Deputy Governor of Pitcairn, Department for International Trade and Consular Teams
1230	British New Zealand Business Association Roundtable Lunch
1430	Meeting with 'Kea', the NZ expat network
1545	<i>Depart for Wellington</i>
Tuesday 10 April	
0730	British High Commission Breakfast Briefing
0945	Call on the Speaker, Rt Hon Trevor Mallard MP
1030	Meet with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
1200 - 1300	Massey University meeting with political commentator Dr Claire Robinson and academics behind the Design + Democracy project
1340	Observe Question Time and Introduction to the House
1530	Visit to Pukeahu (National War Memorial)
1630	Courtesy call with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
1900	Dinner hosted by Speaker
Wednesday 11 April	
1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing with the Education and Workforce Committee (immigration) Briefing with Governance and Administration Committee (civil defence, emergency management) Briefing with the Health Committee (health DHB frameworks, psychoactive substance controls)
1200	Lunch with Members of the CPA NZ, Clayton Mitchell MP host
1400	Round Table with Commonwealth Youth
1500	Meet with the Chief Electoral Commissioner
1600	Meet with Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency Management director
Thursday 12 April	
0900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing with Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee (trade, defence, Pacific), 10.00-10.45am confirmed Briefing with Environment Committee (climate, agriculture & environment issues)
1100	Join Pacific Islands Workshop - refer to separate programme
Friday 13 April	
All day	Pacific Islands Parliamentary Workshop
	Constituency visit
Saturday 14 April	
0900 - 1200	Pacific Islands Parliamentary Workshop

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - UNITED KINGDOM

Nic Dakin MP

Labour

Nic Dakin MP has served as the Labour Party MP for Scunthorpe for the last 7 years. Nic grew up in rural Leicestershire attending school there before studying History at the University of Hull and then Education at King's University College London. He taught English in Hull before moving to Sweden to teach English as a Foreign Language. He then taught for many years at John Leggott Sixth Form College in Scunthorpe, where he served as Principal for a number of years before his election to Parliament in 2010.

While teaching at John Leggott, Nic was also a local councillor for Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens and then leader of North Lincolnshire Councillor 6 years. He was also the deputy chair of the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward. Nic chairs a number of All Party Parliamentary Groups including those for Education, for Steel, for Skills and Employment, and for Pancreatic Cancer. Nic has sat on the Education Committee, and the Procedure Committee, and is currently an Opposition Whip in the Commons.



Diana Johnson MP

Labour

Diana Johnson MP was born and brought up in the North West of England. After studying Law at University, she was called to the Bar in 1991 and for many years worked for community law centres, specialising in welfare and employment law, as well as serving as a National Officer for a civil service trade union. She has a long record of involvement in the NHS and was a visiting legal member of the Mental Health Act Commission, ensuring that people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 were properly treated.

On 5 May 2005 Diana was elected as Member of Parliament for Hull North and is Hull's first female MP and only the 283rd woman elected to the British House of Commons in its history. She was re-elected in 2010 and May 2015. At Westminster, Diana served as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Stephen Timms MP, as a Government Assistant Whip, and as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). From May 2010 to October 2010 she was a Labour Shadow Health Minister and a Shadow Home Office Minister between October 2010 and September 2015. Since September 2015 Diana has been a Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, with responsibilities that include counter terrorism, human rights and the Middle East and North Africa. Diana is a member of numerous All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) that cover a wide range of interests. As part of this work, she has campaigned for a fair settlement for those infected in the NHS contaminated blood scandal.



Adam Holloway MP

Conservative

Born in Faversham and educated in Kent and Surrey, Adam read Theology (BA) followed by Social and Political Science (MA) at Cambridge University. Aged 18, he spent his "gap-year" in Afghanistan with the Resistance against the Russians. Adam was accepted into the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and was subsequently commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. He served as an armoured infantry platoon commander in Cold War Germany and as a Captain in Iraq during the First Gulf War. After serving for four years, he went on to become a television reporter, eventually running the investigative unit on News at Ten.

Adam was elected to serve as the MP for Gravesham in May 2005. In 2006, he was appointed to the Defence Select Committee, which he left in September 2010 to join the Government as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Europe. Adam resigned from that post in October 2011 when he was asked to vote against a non-binding Backbench Motion offering the British people a Referendum on Europe. Adam again served on the Defence Select Committee from November 2012 to November 2014. During his time in Parliament he has taken a close interest in the war in Afghanistan and has visited outside the military envelope about a dozen times. He was also in Benghazi during the fighting, and in Tripoli in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of the city. Most recently he has been to the frontline of the Islamic State in northern Iraq. Adam was co-Chairman of the Council for Arab British Understanding, and is Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Middle East Council.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - UNITED KINGDOM

Kevin Foster MP *Conservative*

Kevin Foster MP was born in Plymouth in December 1978 and spent his childhood in Devon. He read Law at Warwick University, followed by a Masters in International Economic Law and in 2002 was called to the Bar by Inner Temple having completed the Bar Vocational Course.

After completing his studies Kevin worked for an MEP for the West Midlands on a project opposing the Government's plan to implement regional government. This was then followed by a period working as a Criminal Defence Paralegal in Birmingham, work he continued until he was offered the chance to take up a full time position when the Conservative Party took control of Coventry City Council in 2004. During his time on the Council Kevin held a range of positions responsible for dealing with front line services, including a two year stint as Deputy Leader of the Council.

Since being elected in May 2015 Kevin has been one of the most regular contributors in Parliament and served on the Public Accounts Committee. He has also campaigned on a range of issues affecting his constituency, including delivering fairer school funding, securing rail services, local health care services, building the facilities needed to train the next generation for hi-tech jobs and regenerating town centres. In January 2018 Kevin was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Lidington, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.



Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes of Cumnock, Delegation Leader *Labour*

George Foulkes studied Psychology at Edinburgh University before becoming involved in Edinburgh politics when he was elected a Councillor in 1970. In 1974 he became a Lothian Regional Councillor before becoming the MP for South Ayrshire in 1979. In 2005 George stepped down and was made a Labour life-peer, becoming Lord Foulkes of Cumnock.

During Labour's time in government, George served as the Under-secretary of State at the Department for International Development and was Minister of State for Scotland from 2001-2. Since moving into the House of Lords, he has worked on a variety of subjects including the centenary commemorations of the First World War in Scotland and Scottish independence. From June 2003 to May 2005, he was a UK delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU).

Lord Foulkes currently serves on the CPA Executive and for 4 years sat on the board of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. He is a member of the Procedure Committee and the Political Polling and Digital Media Committee. He has previously sat on a range of committees including the European Union Select Committee and the Sub-Committee for External Affairs; National Security Strategy (Joint Committee); Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament; the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee; as well as the ad hoc Select Committee on Soft Power, which looks at the ways in which countries project power without recourse to military action. As an MP, George Foulkes served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for International Development. Lord Foulkes has a long-standing association with the Commonwealth, particularly in the Caribbean, and is President of the Caribbean Council.



Baroness Redfern *Conservative*

Born and raised in Lincolnshire, Baroness Redfern is a retired Marketing Director and Company Director of a successful chemical and hydraulic engineering company and former co-owner of a Seed Merchant and Agrochemical spraying business.

She served as Deputy Leader and then Leader of North Lincolnshire Unitary authority, holding various Cabinet portfolios including Adult and Children Social Care, and Regeneration. She also served as an elected member of Boothferry Borough Council. North Lincolnshire has been regularly recognised as an exemplar authority for both Children and Adult Services. During her leadership she served as a Director of Humberside International Airport Limited, Rail North Limited, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership.

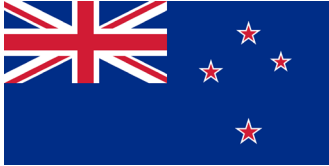
Baroness Redfern has previously been a non-executive director of Scunthorpe Acute Hospitals Trust and Vice Chairman and Audit Chairman of the Primary Care Trust. Whilst serving as Chairman of the Humber Bridge Board she successfully progressed proposals to make free travel crossing for patients who were undergoing long term treatment for the first time in its history. Two years ago Baroness Redfern was made the Inaugural Chancellor of the North Lincolnshire Children's University. Ennobled in October 2015 as Baroness Redfern of the Isle of Axholme, one of her first roles in the House was to serve as a member on the NHS Sustainability committee and the Specialised Healthcare Alliance in which she was able to use her experience and skills in both these key areas.



ANNEX 1 - NEW ZEALAND AND THE UK: THE FUTURE TRADE LANDSCAPE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

9 - 12 APRIL 2018



PROGRAMME CONTEXT

The aim of this visit was to build knowledge and understanding of shared national and regional issues through exchanges with parliamentary colleagues, and further develop the good relationship between the UK Parliament and the Parliament of New Zealand.

Throughout the course of the programme the UK-NZ trade relationship repeatedly surfaced, and was discussed at length with a variety of different stakeholders.

The programme identified a number of areas to explore including:

- The impact of Brexit on UK-New Zealand relations;
- Oversight of trade policy in New Zealand and the status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership;
- The trade and investment relationship between the UK and New Zealand;
- The economic prospects of both countries.

INTRODUCTION

As the UK moves towards Brexit, New Zealand has been identified by the UK government as one of the first countries with which we would wish to form a free trade agreement. In April 2018 a delegation organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK undertook a visit to New Zealand to explore, amongst other things, the opportunities and challenges of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from a parliamentary perspective. The delegation met with NZ Ministers, Members, government officials, business leaders, and civil society organisations. Some key findings of these meetings are presented below.



THE TRADE DEAL

Several key points make a New Zealand FTA particularly appealing to both parties. The delegation found overwhelming positivity towards the prospect of a UK-NZ FTA among both Members and officials in NZ. These groups were especially pleased with the announcement from the UK government that NZ and Australia were priority countries for the UK. Other contributory factors include:

- an historic and trusted relationship;
- similar legal systems;
- New Zealand's experienced team of FTA negotiators, and its extensive experience of other FTAs established with its other trade partners; and
- supplementary markets – particularly agricultural (an example given was the complementarity of opposite lamb seasons, hence less direct competition).

The arguments for a quickly-agreed FTA are not, however, primarily economic. UK-NZ trade in 2016 accounted for a relatively insignificant

amount, and NZ does not feature in the UK's top 25 export partners. The benefit to the UK is largely one of perception. The likely speed and ease of a FTA with NZ would send a positive message in regards to the UK's future ability to establish post-EU trade relationships.

Such a trade agreement would also be attractive because it is relatively low risk. The low value of trade allows for lessons to be learnt from a close diplomatic partner with an extensive experience of creating FTA frameworks – a framework that would be of use to the UK in negotiating further FTAs. It was for this reason China chose NZ as one of the first countries with which to form a FTA.

A complicating factor that arose in discussions was the ongoing negotiation between the EU and NZ, which seems to have speeded up recently. The agreement of this NZ-EU FTA – of which the UK has been a strong advocate within the EU machinery – is due to be concluded in the next couple of years, raising

the question of whether the UK or EU will secure a trade deal first, and the impact that will have on the UK's negotiating position.

The UK-EU deal is further complicated by the issue of subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy and any future UK agricultural subsidies, a contrast to the NZ system which has none.

The allocation of lamb quotas was also raised, particularly in relation to how these might be carried forward by the UK and the EU following Brexit and the possibility for this to impact negatively on NZ's trade outlook.

A final point raised in meetings was the fact that currently, as a result of NZ's unusual trade arrangements, the UK currently trades with NZ on WTO rules. Subsequently, despite a far deeper diplomatic relationship, **the UK currently experiences higher tariffs on goods into NZ than China in certain industries** – notably steel, textiles and car parts. The removal of these could spur growth.

THE COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)

The CPTPP is a multilateral trade agreement of which New Zealand is the prime architect, and **which is a clear priority for the NZ Ministry of Finance and Trade**. Originating as a trade deal between NZ and Singapore, it has since expanded to include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, and Vietnam. It did until recently include the USA, however President Trump pulled out of the agreement following the recent US election. There have been recent news stories that the USA is reconsidering its role, and may re-join under different terms, a view reflected in the delegation's meetings.

It was proposed by some that the UK might also wish to join this agreement. Though not geographically close, it was stressed the framework of the agreement is designed to easily accommodate new partners based not on their location, but on their labour and production standards. There were several arguments suggested for the UK joining the agreement:

- Being a member would **bring the 'markets of Asia to the doorstep of Europe'**. The argument being that, once outside the EU, the UK would be a member of a trade bloc that would have a competitive edge on bringing products and supply chains from the Pacific region to the European Market.
- The agreement would provide immediate access to 11 markets of significant size, which otherwise might be inaccessible until individual FTAs had been negotiated.
- The countries meet an agreed standards framework, which in turn creates an ease of business for industries reliant on international supply chains.
- **The framework allows the right to regulate for individual governments** (though the dispute panel was a key reason given for the USA's withdrawal from the agreement). However this was not a universal view and might complicate negotiation of a bilateral agreement.

THE VISA ISSUE

The UK-NZ visa regime was repeatedly raised during meetings with all sectors. **There was overwhelming consistency in regards to concern about both the practical and**

psychological barriers presented by the visa system of the UK. Not only were a multitude of specific issues raised, but it was also highlighted how the current arrangement is not reciprocal: it is easier for UK citizens to make a life in NZ than the reverse. It was also highlighted how the trend of an increased difficulty of access to the UK has only been in one direction, and it has become a particular obstacle over the past five years. Some specific issues and points raised were as follows:

- NZ business leaders who either established or expanded their business in the UK talked of the **difficulties of retaining skilled staff**, especially from New Zealand. It was highlighted that the requirement of applicants to return to NZ in order to apply for an extension of their 2 year work visa was both impractical and expensive.
- The immigration target of 'tens of thousands' was viewed as a blunt instrument, and not especially constructive in creating a mutually beneficial immigration policy.
- Many people in NZ undertake 'overseas experience' (OE) at some point in their life. Traditionally this had been to the UK, and many individuals have fond memories of this time. This tradition has declined, partially because there is now a greater focus in NZ on Asian languages, visiting Korea, Japan, China, and other similar locations. Secondly the UK was often viewed as a base from which to explore Europe, a perception that is likely to shift with Brexit.
- The visa problem could be resolved as part of the discussions prior to establishing the proposed NZ-UK bilateral trade deal.

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

During a business lunch a range of stakeholders, representing businesses from small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) up to billion dollar investment funds, a range of opinions were voiced about the potential positives of the UK's future trade relationship with NZ. These views were not homogeneous, and different individuals had competing views on the best way forward as well as commenting on some negative elements. Some key ideas raised were:

- The potential for the involvement of the financial sector in NZ's economy where there is a 'chronic lack of capital'. **There is a need to develop the financial architecture of NZ, particularly focusing on the potential of financial technology (fintech) to provide a form of 'financial bridge'** between the UK and NZ, as exists in Australia. Many people are looking to invest in NZ and Australia but the infrastructure is not there.
- UK's Financial services challenges include:
 1. The lack of a clear path to UK capital markets;
 2. Keeping London companies interested - people went out to NZ from AIM (stock markets) – it was a popular meeting but no further follow up. There was the view that the NZ market is just not big enough.
- NZ is a very open market, and bucks the current trend of protectionist economics, as demonstrated by its lack of subsidies.
- **There is the potential for London's deep capital markets to invest in a stable economic and political environment**, with a large number of significant infrastructure projects both underway and planned.
- From the other perspective there are concerns of the

dynamism of the UK market fading and grinding to a halt. Some are not convinced that there is a positive attitude in the UK able to overcome this.

CONCLUSIONS

Though a relatively short visit, this programme enabled a broad sampling of opinions from both private and public spheres. Both positive and negative opinions were found, which demonstrate some valid difficulties to be navigated, but equally a positive and welcoming attitude towards a new trading relationship with the UK. This report was agreed by the following members of the cross-party, bicameral delegation:

Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes
(delegation leader)
Baroness Redfern

Nic Dakin MP
Kevin Foster MP
Adam Holloway MP
Diana Johnson MP

THE MEETINGS

Meetings were held with the following groups and individuals under the Chatham House Rule to enable a more frank discussion.

- Auckland Consul General & Deputy Governor of Pitcairn
- Department for International Trade and Consular Teams
- Associate Professor Damon Salesa
- British New Zealand Business Association Roundtable Lunch
- 'Kea', the NZ expat network
- British High Commissioner
- Mr Speaker, Rt Hon Trevor Mallard MP
- NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Massey University
- NZ Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister
- Education and Workforce Committee
- Governance and Administration Committee
- Civil defence & emergency management
- Health Committee
- Members of CPA NZ
- Commonwealth Youth
- Chief Electoral Commissioner
- Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency
- Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee
- Environment Committee

ABOUT CPA UK

The international Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is the professional association of all Commonwealth parliamentarians, an active network of over 17,000 parliamentarians from 185 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK) is one of the largest and most

active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual programme both in Westminster and overseas. Overseen by the Houses of Parliament and governed by an Executive Committee of cross-party bicameral parliamentarians, CPA UK undertakes international parliamentary outreach on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA.

With a specific focus on parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strengthening activities, CPA UK seeks to

foster co-operation and understanding between parliaments, promote good parliamentary practice and advance parliamentary democracy through a variety of international outreach activities and multilateral programmes. Its work is divided into three regions, which include national, regional and provincial legislatures and the legislatures of Overseas Territories:

- Americas, Caribbean, and Europe
- Africa

- Asia- Pacific

Working closely with parliamentarians and parliamentary officials, CPA UK focuses its bilateral and multilateral outreach activities on a number of areas, including parliamentary practice and procedure, and themes including human rights, public financial scrutiny, sustainable development, equal access to political and economic empowerment and democratic strengthening through election observation.

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