



The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and
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Department for Business and Trade

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Lesley Robinson OBE
CEO
British Marine

Our ref: MCB2025/05412

By email: jpaterson@britishmarine.co.uk

13 June 2025

Dear Lesley,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 April and 6 May regarding safeguarding the UK's leisure marine export industry. We appreciate your engagement on these important issues.

As global instability rises, the actions this government is taking to stabilise the economy and lead the way internationally will support UK businesses trading.

I note your members' views that the UK should avoid, as far as possible, imposing any retaliatory tariffs on US products. On 8 May, the UK Government announced a landmark economic deal with the United States. This demonstrates the value of close engagement with the United States, and the US has committed to further negotiations, including on the 10% tariffs introduced on 2 April across our economy.

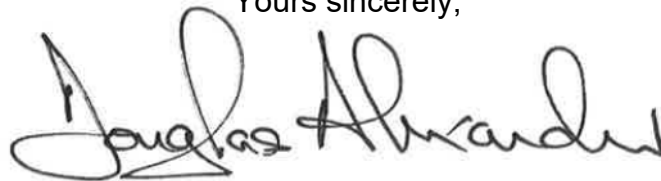
Thank you for highlighting the experiences of your members trading with the EU, many of whom are SMEs. The EU is our closest trading partner, accounting for almost half of the UK's international trade. The landmark UK- EU summit, on 19 May sets in train detailed negotiation on a wide range of economic measures like the SPS agreement and ETS linkage. We did not manage to agree specific action on all UK priorities, but as this is the first of annual UK-EU Summits there will be opportunities to continue to strengthen our relationship and secure new agreements over the years to come.

We remain resolute in our support for businesses and have already introduced several measures to support businesses, including the announcement of the new Business Growth Service, which will make it quicker and easier for businesses across the UK to get help and advice. In the coming months, the Government will also publish the UK's Trade Strategy and Small Business Strategy, which represent key pillars in our Plan

for Change and economic growth and support for small businesses across the United Kingdom.

As discussions with our trading partners continue, please continue to share your businesses' experiences. My officials will be pleased to meet with your members, including at the British Marine reception at Seawork this month, to ensure their views are considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" and the last name "Alexander" clearly distinguishable.

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