

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Dear ConAvent

Thank you for your email about future trade agreements and the NHS.

I understand concern about negotiations for trade agreements, the scrutiny of such agreements, and investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms. However, I would like to assure you that such concerns are unfounded.

The right of governments to regulate in the public interest is protected in investment chapters in free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties. The UK has more than 90 bilateral investment treaties in place with other countries and there has never been a successful ISDS claim brought against the UK, nor has the threat of potential claims affected the Government's legislative programme. With specific reference to concerns about the NHS, ISDS does not, and cannot, force the privatisation of public services.

The Government has been repeatedly clear that our NHS will never be on the table in any trade agreements and I would never jeopardise its future. The UK will continue to ensure that the NHS is protected in all trade agreements it is party to, whether transitioned from an EU context or as a result of new negotiations. Indeed, outside of the EU, rigorous protections for our NHS will be maintained and included in any future trade agreement to which our country is party.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

PETER GIBSON MP

*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

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