



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Response to TTIP amendments and the Queen's Speech

Thank you for contacting me about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the NHS and the tabled amendment to the Queen's Speech.

I appreciate your concerns on this matter. However, it has been clarified on many occasions throughout the TTIP process that current, existing and future trade policy will not affect how the UK runs its public services, such as the NHS.

Negotiators from the United States and the European Union have repeatedly made it clear that it will continue to be for EU member states to make decisions about whether and to what extent they involve the private sector in the provision of public services. The EU's chief negotiator on TTIP has also reinforced that EU countries will continue to be free to decide how they run their public health systems.

The current draft of the TTIP text includes a wide range of protections for the NHS, that draw on the exemptions and protections that already operate successfully in the trade deals we have signed with countries across the world. You can find a brief outline as to these exclusions on the European Commission's website, as well as links to open letters from Commissioner Malmström at the following address:
<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1115>

Ultimately, there are no examples whereby the NHS has been adversely affected by a trade deal. Even concerning investment protection provisions, the UK has around 90 agreements, with a consecutive running time of over 2,000 years, and none have adversely affected the NHS.

However, the Government has accepted this amendment and I hope that this provides you with some reassurance on the matter.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Edward Timpson MP