

Briefing:

What	Meeting with US President Donald Trump
Where	Trump International Golf Links, Menie, Aberdeenshire
When	Tuesday 29 July 2025 (TBC)
Key Message(s)	<p>Opportunity to raise key geopolitical issues and promote Scotland's domestic interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – raise concerns about the impact of US tariffs on key Scottish industries such as whisky, pharmaceuticals and salmon. – Set out Scotland's position on and raise concerns about the Middle East and Ukraine. – Highlight Scotland's commitment as a good global citizen to address climate change through the just transition of key energy industries. – Emphasise Scotland's commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law. – Stress the importance of multilateral institutions and the need for continued US participation in these to address global issues.
Who	<p>Donald Trump, President of the United States Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State (TBC) Warren Stephens, US Ambassador to the UK (TBC)</p>
Why	This private trip to Scotland trip primarily to launch a new golf course at his resort in Aberdeenshire. This is an opportunity to raise key geopolitical issues and promote Scotland's domestic interests.
Supporting official	John Webster, Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
Social media	Comms colleagues to advise
Briefing contents	<p>ANNEX A: Key Asks ANNEX B: Reactive Top Lines ANNEX C: US Tariffs and UK-US Economic Prosperity Deal (EPD) ANNEX D: Golf ANNEX E: Criminal Investigation of Damage to Turnberry Hotel ANNEX F: International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Russia/Ukraine •Israel/Gaza •China <p>ANNEX G: Energy Industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oil & Gas •Onshore and Offshore Wind <p>ANNEX H: Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Asks from Amnesty International UK • Safe Access/Buffer zones • Religious Expression <p>ANNEX I: Edinburgh Airport US Customs Pre-Clearance ANNEX J: Letter from Salmon Scotland ANNEX K: Letter from Kentucky Distillers Association</p>

	ANNEX L: Letter from the US Distilled Spirits Council
--	--

KEY ASKS

US Tariffs and UK-US Trade Negotiations

- Press for the US administration and UK Government to build on the UK-US 'Economic Prosperity Deal' (EPD) agreed in May. Specifically:
 - To agree a permanent solution to the trade dispute over subsidies for Airbus which previously led to damaging tariffs on whisky – suspended since 2021 but only until 2026.
 - To get the US administration to deliver on the commitment in the EPD to give favourable treatment to UK pharmaceuticals. This is Scotland's second-biggest export sector to the US after whisky.
 - To press for reduction or removal of the baseline 10% tariff that the US is applying to most UK goods – including whisky, and salmon on which Tavish Scott of Salmon Scotland has written to you (**Annex J**).

Human Rights

- Human rights organisations, including Amnesty International UK, have written to you to raise key concerns with the President (**Annex H**).
- Suggest avoiding specifics but outline the Scottish Government's approach and highlight the importance of continued US leadership in this space.
- Note that as a good global citizen, the Scottish Government is committed to promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law at home and abroad.
- Emphasise that we believe in democracy, in the rule of law and in friendly cooperation between nations and highlight the importance of continued collaboration with the UN and other multilateral/human rights organisations to ensure that human rights are protected and global challenges, such as climate change are tackled.

Israel/Gaza

- You should note your support for US efforts to mediate a peace agreement to date, but call on the US and the wider international community to take any decisive action it can to help bring about an immediate, sustainable ceasefire by all parties; secure the immediate release of hostages; and, demand the Israeli Government to stop attacks on aid convoys and civilians, and immediately lift restrictions to ensure lifesaving aid can get into Gaza unimpeded.

Russia/Ukraine

- You should note your support for all international efforts to secure a strong and durable peace, which respect Ukraine's sovereignty and deters any future Russian aggression.
- You should welcome the progress the US has made towards a ceasefire and in negotiations with Russia and Ukraine but call on the US to maintain their involvement and take decisive action as this is the only way to effectively deter Russia.

REACTIVE TOP LINES

Golf

On the R&A Open returning to Turnberry:

- The Scottish Government has a funding relationship with The R&A to support their events in Scotland, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of The R&A and the Scottish Government is informed of venue selection after the decision has been made. The Scottish Government is not involved in the decision-making process.

On Visit Scotland support for the Nexo Championship:

- I welcome the Nexo Golf Championship being held at the Trump International Golf Links this August.
- [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

On the Genesis Scottish Open:

- The Scottish Government has a funding relationship with the Genesis Scottish Open, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of organisers, in this case the DP World Tour.

If asked about the criminal investigation of damage to Turnberry Hotel:

- It would not be appropriate for me to comment on an independent criminal investigation and prosecution.

Energy Industries

On enhanced oil and gas production:

- Decisions on offshore oil and gas licensing, consenting and the associated fiscal regime, are all matters that are currently reserved to the UK Government.
- The Scottish Government is clear in our own support for a just transition for Scotland's valued and highly skilled oil and gas sector, which recognises the maturity of the North Sea basin and aligns with climate change commitments.
- This is why we continue to call on UK Government to approach decisions for North Sea oil and gas projects on a rigorously evidence-led, case by case, basis – with climate compatibility and energy security as key considerations.

On wind developments and global approaches to tackling climate change such as the UN Paris Agreement:

- There is an urgent need to transition from fossil fuels globally if the Paris Agreement climate change goals are to be met.
- Scotland is at the forefront of offshore wind development globally with a current reported potential pipeline of over 40 GW of offshore wind projects.
- We are investing up to £500m over 5 years to support market certainty, create a highly productive, competitive offshore wind economy and support thousands of jobs, while embedding innovation and boosting skills.

US TARIFFS AND UK-US ECONOMIC PROSPERITY DEAL (EPD)

TOP LINES

- I strongly support the negotiations to build on the UK-US deal from May.
- I am keen also to see a permanent resolution to the dispute over civil aircraft subsidies, where Scotch whisky was an innocent bystander but previously became subject to US tariffs. Clearly I would not want a repeat of that.
- Like you I am keen to see agreements of mutual benefit.

Scottish Government Priorities for the UK-US negotiations

1. Whisky – biggest export product at c.£900m/yr exports to the US. See below for details.
2. Pharmaceuticals – second biggest export product at c.£600m/yr. The US is expected soon to introduce big tariffs on pharmaceuticals from all countries, but in the EPD it committed to giving UK pharmaceuticals preferential treatment. The detail of this preferential treatment remains to be negotiated.
3. Baseline 10% tariff. The US is applying a 10% tariff to essentially all UK goods except those singled out for specific treatment. Scottish Government is pressing the UK Government to get this reduced or removed in the negotiations.
4. Defensive interests. The UK will have to make concessions to the US in return. There is a risk of key sectors for Scotland being used as bargaining chips in this way, including agri-food.

Scotch Whisky Association/Airbus dispute

The EPD does not (yet) include a permanent solution for the wider trade dispute concerning Airbus and Boeing. The US was allowed to apply a 25% tariff to UK products including single malt Scotch whisky, cheese and cashmere but in 2021 they were paused until 2026. According to SWA the industry lost over £600 million – equivalent to over £1 million a day - when this tariff was levied on Single Malt Scotch Whisky between October 2019 and March 2021. A secondary objective is to reduce or remove for whisky the 10% baseline tariff the US has applied to most UK goods. SWA estimate a 10% tariff could result in between £200-400 million export losses on an annual basis to the US.

Steel and Aluminium

On 30 June, parts of the UK-US EPD came into effect but UK steel and aluminium remain subject to 25% tariffs, pending the US delivering on a commitment to establish a tariff-free quota. The impacts on Scotland are modest compared with other parts of the UK, indirect, and not yet clear. Lochaber smelter complex sends the majority of its output to Bridgnorth which in turn exports only c.20% of its output to the US. Liberty Steel Dalzell, GFG's Motherwell steel operation, is currently not operating with the workforce on agreed furlough. The impact of US tariffs is unclear – business says there could be indirect benefits but there is also a concern markets could be flooded with cheap steel normally destined for the US.

Background

The US is a priority trade partner for Scotland, and consistently the top single country for Scottish exports. In 2023, we exported nearly £4 billion of goods to America, and we imported roughly the same amount.

President Trump has sent letters to key US trading partners (excluding the UK) regarding potential additional tariffs from 1 August. These include increasing tariffs to 30%-35% for the EU, Mexico and Canada and new tariffs of 10%-50% on other countries including Brazil and South Korea. Additional sectoral tariffs may also be confirmed soon (e.g. copper, timber and pharmaceuticals). [redacted – s.30 (b)(i)] The EU and other countries are still aiming to avoid these tariffs by striking deals with the US.

On 30 June, parts of the UK-US EPD came into effect, reducing or removing US tariffs on UK cars and some aerospace goods (e.g. engines and parts). UK steel and aluminium remain subject to 25% tariffs, pending the US delivering on a commitment to establish a tariff-free quota. The baseline 10% 'reciprocal' tariff on most UK goods remains in place. The EPD also specifies the UK should get preferential treatment in certain sectors, including pharmaceuticals which is Scotland's second biggest export sector to the US, but progress is expected to take some weeks or months while the US completes its 'Section 232' sectoral investigations. Scottish Government priorities for the next stages of the EPD include whisky, pharmaceuticals, and reducing/removing the 10% US baseline tariff (including for salmon, on which the sector has just written to the First Minister). The UK Government has said that maintaining UK food standards is an absolute red line, and to date the US side appears to have accepted that.

UK Government Engagement

While the UK Government is still not sharing comprehensive material on UK-US trade negotiations, there have been some recent improvements e.g. [redacted – s.32(1)(a)(iv)]

GOLF

TOP LINES

- The Scottish Government has a funding relationship with The R&A to support their events in Scotland, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of The R&A and the Scottish Government is informed of venue selection after the decision has been made. The Scottish Government is not involved in the decision-making process.
- The Scottish Government has a funding relationship with the Genesis Scottish Open, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of organisers, in this case the DP World Tour.
- I welcome the Nexo Golf Championship being held at the Trump International Golf Links this August. [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]
- In relation to the damage to the Turnberry Hotel it would not be appropriate for me to comment on an independent criminal investigation and prosecution.

The Open 'Rota' of Venues and Trump Turnberry

- The R&A has a 'rota' of approximately 10 golf courses in the UK that are eligible to host The Open. Each Open is awarded to one of these venues to host.
- While The R&A have stated that Turnberry has never been removed from the rota of eligible courses, the venue has not held the Championship since 2009, when attendance was 120,000. Infrastructure and capacity challenges have precluded The R&A taking The Open back to the venue.
- We are aware that President Trump and the Trump Organization are keen that The Open returns to Turnberry.
- This would be a decision for The R&A, who would need to be satisfied that infrastructural issues which currently mean Turnberry could not host would be addressed. [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]

The R&A's Position

- Mark Darbon, CEO of the R&A, spoke to media on 16 July, in advance of The Open in Portrush, Northern Ireland.
- Mr Darbon confirmed that The R&A met Eric Trump earlier in the year to discuss The Open returning to Turnberry, while also confirming that there are "big logistical issues". He specifically cited the need for work on the road, rail and accommodation infrastructure around Turnberry.
- Mr Darbon said that The R&A "have an ongoing dialogue with the UK Government given the scale of the event we stage", but also that "they know choices around venues are at our whim". The Scottish Government has had no engagement with the UK Government on this issue.

Prospects of Trump Turnberry hosting non-R&A golf events in Scotland

- [redacted – s.30(b)(ii)]
- In his comments to media on 16 July, Mark Darbon stated that The R&A are in discussion with Muirfield to stage The Open. [redacted – s.3(b)(ii)]
- The Scottish Government has provided £1.8 million per year for the Genesis Scottish Open since 2021. This agreement ended after the 2025 edition, [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

- As is the case for The Open, the key point to stress is that the Scottish Government has a funding relationship with the Genesis Scottish Open, but all venue decisions are solely at the discretion of organisers, in this case the DP World Tour, which is the men's professional golf tour in Europe.

Commercial in confidence: Nexo Golf Championship at Trump International Golf Links, Aberdeen

- VisitScotland are in negotiations to invest [redacted – s.33(1)(b)] of its 2025/26 GIA into the Nexo Golf Championship, which will be held at the Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeen from 7-10 August 2025. Nexo have just become the DP World Tour's Digital Asset and Wealth Partner.
- This DP World Tour event has been brought to Scotland at very short notice as a consequence of the Czech Republic pulling out of a hosting agreement. The Legends Tour (male professional golfer aged 50 or over) have an event at the course the previous week and the DP World Tour have therefore chosen to "roll forward" much of the infrastructure to use the following week and the Trump Organization has agreed to provide support by offering the venue.
- There is a positive case for investment due to the media value of the event and the economic benefit to Aberdeen's visitor economy.
- [redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

Timeline to Ministers involvement in Menie Golf Course planning application

- 4 Dec 2007 – Scottish Ministers called-in a planning application by Trump International Golf Links Scotland Ltd for a proposed golf course and resort development. Ministers called in the application, in view of the proposal raising issues of importance requiring scrutiny at a national level.
- 10 June 2008 – 4 July 2008 – Public Local Inquiry commenced and concluded. Three Reporters from DPEA appointed by Scottish Ministers to consider this proposal and report to Ministers with recommendations carried out a public local inquiry where Mr Trump gave evidence.
- 10 Oct 2008 – The reporters submitted their report and recommendation to Ministers that outline planning permission be granted. The reporters found overall that economic and social benefits of the proposal justified the adverse environmental impacts caused to part of the Foveran SSSI.
- 3 Nov 2008 – Scottish Ministers issued a notice of intention that they were minded to grant planning permission, subject to the conclusion of a Section 75 agreement.
- 16 December 2008 – Scottish Ministers issued final decision on the application granting outline planning permission for this development.

Top Lines

- Ministers have not been involved in any planning issues on the site since 2008.
- The Menie Golf Resort application was handled in line with all the regulations and procedures in place at the time. The development was approved by Ministers in 2008 on the recommendation of the three independent Reporters.
- It would not be appropriate to comment on the on the merits of any planning proposals.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF DAMAGE TO TURNBERRY HOTEL

TOP LINE

- It would not be appropriate for me to comment on an independent criminal investigation and prosecution.

Background

- All police criminal investigations in Scotland are under the control and direction of the public prosecutor, the Procurator Fiscal;
- The investigation of the criminal damage caused to Turnberry Hotel on 8 March is continuing;
- 7 people have been charged by the police and have appeared separately at Ayr Sheriff Court;
- The prosecutor will continue to oversee the police investigation before making a decision as to whether to prosecute and the offences which would be prosecuted. These decisions are taken independently of any other person, including the government;
- The law allows a period of 18 months from the first appearance in court within which any prosecution must start with the accused being indicted. A trial could take place several months after that so, depending on the investigation and the position which the accused take in relation to any charges, a trial could be up to two years away; and
- Prosecutors and the police are engaging directly with the Trump business which owns the hotel to ensure they are briefed on the investigation and to gather the necessary evidence about the damage caused.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RUSSIA/UKRAINE TOP LINES

- We support all international efforts to secure a strong and durable peace, which respect Ukraine's sovereignty and deters any future Russian aggression.
- We support the role the UK Government is taking with the Coalition of the Willing to support Ukraine's future security.
- How and on what terms this war comes to an end can only be decided by negotiations with Ukraine at the heart of them.
- We welcome the progress the US has made towards a ceasefire and in negotiations with Russia and Ukraine. As the UK Prime Minister has said, US involvement is the only way to effectively deter Russia.

ISRAEL/GAZA TOP LINES

- People in Gaza are being bombed and left to starve by Israel on a massive scale. The trickle of aid being delivered by private militarised contractors is not only inadequate and dehumanising; it has resulted in over 1,000 people being killed as they desperately try to access food.
- The international community cannot allow this situation to continue; and the US is in a unique position to intervene and push for the Israeli government to allow the UN and international humanitarian organisations to deliver the huge amounts of lifesaving aid that are waiting at the borders.
- I support US efforts to mediate a peace agreement to date, however would call on the US and the wider international community to take any decisive action it can to help bring about an immediate, sustainable ceasefire by all parties, secure the immediate release of hostages and demand the Israeli Government stop attacks on aid convoys and civilians, and immediately lift restrictions to ensure that aid can enter Gaza unimpeded.

CHINA TOP LINES

- The focus of the Scottish Government's policy on China remains to support political, economic, cultural, education, and social relationships with the people of China in keeping with the values of Scotland.
- This means working constructively on global priorities such as tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, and challenging China in areas of concern, such as human rights. The Scottish Government will keep all policies under review.
- We take security matters extremely seriously. We expect our institutions and businesses to be fully aware of the risks of any international engagement, do proper due diligence and take steps to protect their assets and people.
- The Scottish Government is considering the outcome of the UK Government's China Audit, which sets out the UK Government's long term strategy on engaging with China confidently, pragmatically and carefully. We are working closely with the UK Government to understand the implications for Scotland.

ENERGY INDUSTRIES**OIL & GAS TOP LINES**

- Decisions on offshore oil and gas licensing, consenting and the associated fiscal regime, are all matters that are currently reserved to the UK Government.
- The Scottish Government is clear in our own support for a just transition for Scotland's valued and highly skilled oil and gas sector, which recognises the maturity of the North Sea basin and aligns with climate change commitments.
- There is an urgent need to transition from fossil fuels globally if the Paris Agreement climate change goals are to be met. We are not going to deny the climate science that clearly shows the crisis we all are facing.
- We've also got to have a just transition. This means not simply stopping all future oil and gas activity overnight. That would be wrong – and could threaten energy security while destroying the very skills we need to transition.
- This is why we continue to call on UK Government to approach decisions for North Sea oil and gas projects on a rigorously evidence-led, case by case, basis – with climate compatibility and energy security as key considerations.

ONSHORE RENEWABLES TOP LINES

- Onshore wind is a cheap and reliable source of electricity generation; with Scotland's resource and commitment seeing us lead the way in onshore wind deployment and support across the UK.
- The Scottish Government is committed to the continued development and deployment of onshore wind in order to support the rapid decarbonisation of our energy system, and the sectors which depend upon it, in line with a just transition to net zero.
- According to the UK Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Public Attitudes Tracker: Renewable energy, Winter 2024 - 82% of people in the UK support renewable energy.

OFFSHORE WIND TOP LINES

- Scotland is at the forefront of offshore wind development globally with a current reported potential pipeline of over 40 GW of offshore wind projects.
- We are investing up to £500m over 5 years to support market certainty, create a highly productive, competitive offshore wind economy and support thousands of jobs, while embedding innovation and boosting skills.
- We are consulting on an updated sectoral marine plan, which will provide a clear roadmap for the sustainable delivery of offshore wind in Scottish waters that balances the needs of communities, nature and other users of the sea.
- We are engaging closely with the UK Government to understand the security implications of potential foreign investment in energy-related infrastructure.
- We welcome engagement with foreign investors and projects which have the potential to fill strategic gaps in the Scottish offshore wind supply chain, as well as creating jobs here in Scotland.

HUMAN RIGHTS

KEY ASKS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

Amnesty International UK has written to the First Minister on 22 July in relation to the below issues and also highlighting the duty upon Scottish Government and Police Scotland to ensure the right to peaceful protest is upheld:

- The US withdrawal from multilateral institutions and agreements including- the Human Rights Council, the World Health Organisation and the Paris Climate Agreement and the imposition of sanctions on the membership of the International Criminal Court and UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Retreating from civilian harm mitigation measures in line with the protection of international humanitarian law. This includes shipment of weapons to Israel being deployed against Palestinian civilians in Gaza.
- Cuts to US foreign assistance, including 83% of USAID awards and funding of the UN Relief and Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- **N.B. Officials advise against commenting on the domestic matters of another state:** In terms of domestic US policy, concerns include the approach to immigration and asylum running contrary to principles of international law; the withholding of funding to colleges and universities and threatened deportation of students exercising freedom of speech; the dismantling of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion programmes across federal agencies; the removal of government information and resources on sexual and reproductive rights; and the executive order on a binary definition of sex and gender.

SAFE ACCESS/BUFFER ZONES TOP LINES

- Women should be able to access abortion services without unwanted influence, harassment, or public judgement.
- The Act is not an attempt to restrict freedom of expression, but to safeguard public health and protect the right of women to access healthcare without obstruction. It is simply not acceptable for anyone to experience harassment, intimidation, or unwanted influence as they access essential healthcare.
- Those who oppose abortion can continue to do so everywhere else in the country, and in whatever lawful manner they choose. The Act therefore only protects against behaviour which interferes with the rights of women and staff to access services without fear of harassment, intimidation, unwanted influence, and public judgement.

RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION TOP LINES

- This Government will always stand up for the rights of those who wish to express their faith or belief – this Act does not change that. People continue to have the right to protest and to free speech, however, no one has the right to harass women, or to try to influence without consent their decision to access healthcare, or to impede their access to it in any way.
- The Act was drafted to capture only intentional or reckless behaviour close to a small number of premises providing abortion services. It does not – and has never been intended to – criminalise any particular action, including silent prayer.

US PRECLEARANCE AT EDINBURGH AIRPORT

US Preclearance at Edinburgh Airport (EDI) represents a strategic opportunity to enhance Scotland's global connectivity, drive economic growth, and reinforce the UK's position as a leading transatlantic hub. With support from the UK and Scottish Governments, industry stakeholders, and international partners, Preclearance would deliver tangible benefits for passengers, airlines, and the economy.

What is US Preclearance?

US Preclearance allows US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to conduct immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections at foreign airports prior to boarding US-bound flights. Upon arrival, precleared passengers bypass CBP and TSA inspections, enabling faster connections and a smoother travel experience. Operational in 15 airports across six countries, Preclearance processed more than 22 million passengers in 2024.

Why Edinburgh?

EDI is Scotland's busiest and most internationally connected airport, carrying 15.8 million passengers in 2024 – a record for any Scottish airport. Employing approximately 850 staff directly, the campus employs more than 8,000 people. A BiGGAR Economics report in 2020 found that in 2019, EDI generated £1.4 billion Gross Value Added (GVA) and 28,000 jobs in the Scottish economy. EDI is Scotland's only airport offering direct scheduled flights to the United States, with services to major US hubs including New York, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C.

- Transatlantic growth: In 2024, seat capacity from Edinburgh to North America reached 419,000 – this will increase to 536,000 seats in 2025.
- Market resilience: EDI's North American market is at a record high, connecting to eight different destinations with five US airlines, reflecting strong demand and airline confidence.

Economic impact for Scotland and the UK

Preclearance is a catalyst for economic growth. The experience of Dublin Airport - where Preclearance was introduced in 2010 - demonstrates the potential:

- Passenger growth: Daily US-bound flights from Dublin have more than tripled from 11 to 35 between 2010 and 2025.
- Visitor spend: US visitors to Scotland are amongst the highest spending visitors per night (£178.80 compared to average of £104.58). US visitor numbers and spend in Ireland doubled post-Preclearance, significantly outpacing growth in Scotland over the same period.
- Pre-pandemic (2019), 22.2 million jobs – 6 out of every 10 – in the UK were in industries reliant on global connectivity; industries that generated £1.2 trillion of UK GVA, two thirds of the UK's total.

For Scotland and the wider UK, Preclearance would:

- Increase inbound tourism and associated spending.
- Enhance trade and investment links with the US.
- Support job creation in aviation, hospitality, and export-driven sectors.

EDI's flexible facilitation approach to integrate Preclearance into the departure process would minimise infrastructure costs and maximise passenger convenience.

[redacted – s.33(1)(b)]

Conclusion

US Preclearance at Edinburgh Airport is a strategic investment in Scotland's and the UK's future. It will unlock economic growth, enhance global connectivity, and deliver a world-class travel experience. With the right support from the UK Government, this initiative can become a cornerstone of the UK's transatlantic relationship and a powerful symbol of Brand Scotland on the world stage.

LETTER FROM SALMON SCOTLAND ON TARIFFS

Dear First Minister,

Further to our discussion we had at the Royal Highland Show last month over tariffs and their impact on our sector, I am requesting your government's support at this critical time in international trade negotiations ahead of your meeting with President Donald Trump.

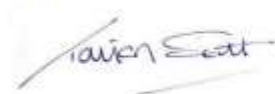
We welcome the Scottish Government's backing of Label Rouge Scottish salmon to help boost sales in France and other European markets. Strengthening the designation of the Label Rouge mark will be vital in supporting exporters and growing our international presence. With US tariff policy creating ongoing global uncertainty, we appreciate the Scottish Government's swift recognition of this challenge and your commitment to keeping Scottish salmon competitive in Europe.

However, the impact of a 10% tariff on exports of Scottish salmon to the United States of America remains a significant concern for our sector. Our sector exported £225 million of salmon to the USA in 2024, making that market the second most valuable export country for Scottish salmon. As well as the direct impact on sales, the tariffs are pushing rival producers to focus more on European markets – risking the UK's leading food export losing ground in France and elsewhere on the continent.

Ahead of your forthcoming meeting with President Trump, I am writing to request that you press on the president the importance of removing the 10% tariff for Scottish salmon. As a premium product in the US market, in a country where nearly all salmon is imported, there is an opportunity for the multinational companies operating in Scotland to grow their operations in the US and create more American jobs. For example, Mowi has three factories in Florida, Texas and Maine, serving all of the US with Atlantic salmon.

If you require any further information ahead of your meetings, we would be very happy to assist.

With very best wishes,



Tavish Scott
CEO
Salmon Scotland

Copy to:

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

LETTER FROM KENTUCKY DISTILLERS ASSOCIATION

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Kentucky Distillers' Association, we are grateful for the work that you have done to lead our nation toward reciprocal trade with the United Kingdom. As you prepare to meet next week with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, we urge you to solidify the return of zero-for-zero tariffs on spirits between the United States and the U.K., which has helped Kentucky Bourbon prosper and has created jobs and investment in our Commonwealth.

Kentucky Bourbon has been a great American success story over the last 25 years, thanks in part to our symbiotic relationship with the Scotch Whisky industry. In addition to being a large export market for our whiskey, Scotland also imports around \$300 million in used Kentucky Bourbon barrels each year. Around 60% of all Scotch whisky is aged in casks from Kentucky.

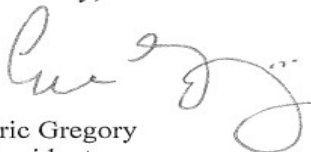
The barrel journey is a key factor that highlights how Kentucky Bourbon and Scotch Whisky are intertwined and heavily dependent on each other's success. Both also are distinctive products of their home countries, meaning they can't be made anywhere else. We believe that is an important consideration in trade discussions as neither Bourbon nor Scotch jobs can be offshored to other countries. We take great pride in the fact that Bourbon is America's only native spirit, and Kentucky crafts 95% of the world's supply, a great boon to our local corn farmers.

The U.K. also is one of our top export markets with more than \$27 million in spirits every year, almost all of which is Kentucky Bourbon, making it our fifth largest country for exports. And, Kentucky Bourbon has created a reason for global tourists to experience American products in their American birthplace, further investing in the American economy and growing our local communities. We welcomed more than 2.7 million people last year from across the world to experience our Kentucky Bourbon Trail® tour with visitors hailing from 20 countries, including Scotland and the U.K.

The Kentucky Distillers' Association and our members are grateful for the work that you have done to advocate for Americans, American jobs, and American industries, and we deeply appreciate your continued defense of Bourbon, our country's native spirit. The return of zero-to-zero tariffs on spirits between the U.S. and the U.K. will help Kentucky Bourbon continue its unprecedented success in creating American jobs, investment and tourism, and we stand ready to support your administration in advancing your American First Trade Policy.



Sincerely,



Eric Gregory
President
Kentucky Distillers' Association

LETTER FROM THE US DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. (DISCUS), I want to commend your bold leadership in delivering the Economic Prosperity Deal with the United Kingdom (UK). As you prepare to meet with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer later this month in Scotland, we seek your support to secure the permanent return of the long-standing zero-for-zero tariffs on distilled spirits between the U.S. and the UK, which has delivered real benefits to American businesses, workers, and consumers.

For over three decades, the U.S. and UK spirits sectors have been the model of fair and reciprocal trade. The U.S. and UK spirits sectors are complementary as certain types of spirits, such as Bourbon, Tennessee Whiskey, and Scotch Whisky, are recognized as “distinctive products,” which are not substitutable and can only be made in their designated countries - Bourbon and Tennessee Whiskey in the U.S. and Scotch Whisky in Scotland. Due to these agreements, the UK was the third-largest export market for U.S. spirits in 2024.

Restoring zero-for-zero tariffs on spirits between the U.S. and UK will also deliver a big win for U.S. jobs in the hospitality sector, which is negatively impacted by tariffs on spirits. The U.S. hospitality sector employs over 15 million Americans and is a critical engine of the U.S. economy. However, it faces serious challenges, including high unemployment and tight margins, which are further compounded by business and economic uncertainty. For full-service restaurants, alcohol sales account for approximately 21% of their total sales, and distilled spirits make up around 45-50% of these sales. Ensuring access to a diverse range of distinctive spirits is crucial to the health of this sector and the millions of jobs it supports.

We are grateful for your commitment and for the opportunity to share our views. We stand ready to support your administration in advancing your America First Trade Policy and grow U.S. spirits exports, protect American jobs, and keep our spirits industry strong, from grain to glass.

Sincerely,



Chris R. Swonger
President and CEO
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.