

Virtual Briefing: The Treatment of Innovation in the Australia-UK FTA

Friday 12th February 2021



James Clarke – Deputy Chief Negotiator for Australia FTA

James Clarke was appointed Deputy Chief Negotiator for the UK's FTA negotiations with Australia in 2020. Prior to joining DIT, James was based in FCDO heading up the programme across Whitehall to bring over 140 international agreements into force as the UK left the EU. James spent his earlier career in HM Treasury working on a range of economic and trade policy roles, as well as time as Private Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister



Lauren Sheppard- Head of Innovation Trade Policy, Chapter lead for Australia FTA

Lauren is the Head of Innovation Trade Policy and a Chapter Lead for the US, Australia and CPTPP agreements in the Department for International Trade. Lauren is an experienced economic policy official and has previously held leadership roles in both the Department for International Trade and HM Treasury. Her economic policy experience is wide-spread and includes trade, financial services, spending and labour market policy.



Emily Cowhig- Trade Policy Advisor, Innovation Trade Policy

Emily is part of the Innovation Trade Policy team at the Department for International Trade, supporting on FTA negotiations with the United States and Australia. Emily has previously worked in the Department for Transport and HM Revenue & Customs across a range of policy areas.



Sam James- Senior Trade Policy Advisor, Innovation Trade Policy, and Deputy Chapter lead for Australia FTA

Sam is a Senior Trade Policy Advisor in the Innovation Trade Policy team at the Department for International Trade, and the Deputy Chapter Lead for FTA negotiations with Australia. Since joining DIT in October 2019, he has also supported negotiations with the United States, New Zealand, and Japan. Before joining the Civil Service, Sam spent a number of years as an academic historian at the University of Cambridge.