

# TRADE IN SERVICES COUNCIL

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Purpose

1. The Trade in Services Council (TISC) will bring a collective, strategic, and long-term vision for UK services trade and promote the importance of services to the UK economy. The TISC will represent the interests of services businesses of all sizes across the whole of the UK.

### Aims and objectives

2. The TISC will function as a coordinating and amplifying voice, bringing together figures from across services sectors to jointly promote services trade and draw together a collective vision for services trade priorities. It will give strategic direction and impetus behind three areas:
  - a. Promoting the UK services sectors, articulating their importance to the economy, and encouraging services firms to take advantage of new trade opportunities.
  - b. Identifying common barriers to services trade.
  - c. Supporting better coordination of trade in services promotional and policy work across UK government departments and ensuring export promotion is tailored to the needs of services companies.

### Governance and membership

3. The creation of the TISC was supported by the Department for International Trade in its 2021 Export Strategy and it will function as an independent body led by industry. It will initially run for a two-year period from March 2022, with its continuation to be reviewed towards the end of that period.
4. Governance will be provided by a Steering Committee consisting of senior representatives of industry groups. The Steering Committee will convene at least once every six months to review progress.
  - a. Rain Newton-Smith (CBI Chief Economist) was nominated as Chair in the first meeting.
  - b. The Chair will set the agenda of the Steering Committee meetings and represent the TISC in an external capacity.
  - c. Secretariat resource will be coordinated by the CBI with support from TISC members.
  - d. Working groups will be chaired by different TISC members.
5. Government Ministers and senior officials in attendance for parts of the meetings where appropriate. The Department of International Trade will have a permanent observer seat and will contribute where necessary.
6. The CBI will lead coordination of the TISC with the support of other members where necessary. TISC documents will be available on the CBI website. Meeting minutes will be produced and published on the CBI website.

## Outputs

7. Types of work to be undertaken by the TISC will be subject to the agreement of members. Where any workstreams are identified in the Steering Committee a sub-committee may be created to lead that work. It is intended that:
  - a. Working-level sub-committees can be chaired by members of the TISC that are the leading voices in specific areas.
  - b. Outputs will vary according to the workstream but may include promotional activity, short policy papers, or meetings to brief government. Initial working groups are:
    - i. Articulating the importance of services to the economy supported by improved services trade data.
    - ii. Strengthening services export promotion.
    - iii. Promoting cross-Whitehall support for services trade.
  - c. Members of the TISC can opt out of working level sub-committees if necessary.

## Stakeholder engagement

8. The TISC will work with existing fora such as the Professional & Business Services Council (PBSC) and government Trade Advisory Groups (TAGs), although with no formal link.
9. The TISC will ensure businesses or trade associations that are not members of the Council are able to input views for consideration through a dedicated email inbox and CBI point of contact. The email address is: [tradeinservicescouncil@cbi.org.uk](mailto:tradeinservicescouncil@cbi.org.uk).
10. The TISC will engage with various government departments where necessary to promote cross-services priorities.

## Validity

11. These terms of reference were approved by members of the TISC Steering Committee and subsequently enter into force.
12. The terms of reference can be amended or revoked by the Chair after consultation of the TISC.