

LG/AJ



Rt Hon Alister Jack
Secretary of State for Scotland
The Scotland Office
Dover House
26 Whitehall
LONDON SW10 2AU

14 January 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Scotch Whisky Tariffs

For three years GMB Scotland has been calling on the UK Government to bring forward protective measures for our vital whisky and spirits sector, but to no avail.

Alongside oil and gas, food and drink manufacturing are the foundations of the Scottish economy, with whisky and spirits the jewel in the crown.

This week, the Scotch Whisky Association has warned that any further trade tariffs could be, in their words, devastating. This is bad news for the Scottish economy and should also set alarm bells ringing for UK-US trade negotiations post Brexit.

A further hike in tariffs could impact on distilleries and maturation in island, rural and northern operations, and could also harm bottling operations in the central belt too. That's why whisky workers across Scotland want to know what action the UK Government is taking to mitigate the impact of tariffs and to bring this dispute to an urgent end.

I look forward to hearing from you and providing an update for whisky and spirits workers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Louise Gilmour'.

LOUISE GILMOUR
GMB SCOTLAND SENIOR ORGANISER

GMB SCOTLAND – PROTECTING YOU AT WORK

GMB Scotland Secretary: Gary Smith
Fountain House, 1 Woodside Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow G3 7UJ
Tel: 0141 332 8641/9501 Fax: 0141 332 4491 Web: www.gmb.org.uk

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YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM
0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk