



Department for  
Business & Trade

**Kevin Hollinrake MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

**Department for Business and Trade**  
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Matt Gantley  
CEO UKAS  
2 Pine Trees  
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31 March 2023

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your continued work on the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the UK and the productive working relationships UKAS continues to maintain with my officials.

Your team have recently shared concerns about the current deadline for UK CABs to transition to the new preferred accreditation standards. I understand this transition is in accordance with the European Cooperation of Accreditation (EA) mandatory policy document EA-2/17 M:2020, Revision 4 and the transition was due to be completed by the 17 April 2023.

I understand that a number of CABs are unlikely to meet this deadline. The Department for Business and Trade have considered both the effect that a reduction in CAB capacity would represent and the risks of permitting CABs to continue to be accredited against the existing accreditation standards. We therefore believe that a fixed term, time limited, extension to the transition deadline is necessary and proportionate response to limit disruption to the UK market for manufactured goods.

Following discussions with UKAS, we would like you to extend the deadline for CABs to transfer to the preferred accreditation standards until 31 December 2023. I would ask that UKAS communicate the new deadline directly to CABs to ensure they understand that non-compliance will risk suspension of their existing appointments to undertake conformity assessment activities under the relevant regulations.

My officials have also discussed with UKAS that a plan needs to be put in place quickly to ensure we support CABs to transfer to the new standards ahead of the extended deadline. I would request that you share a proposed plan with my officials by the end of April, detailing the achievability of transition for the affected CABs.

I have also asked my officials to continue to work with UKAS to monitor progress and further address any issues faced.

Yours sincerely,

**KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Department for Business and Trade