The Rt Hon [FIRST NAME] [SURNAME] MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

[or constituency address]

DATE October 2019

Dear [salutation] [surname],

I am writing to you to request a meeting to discuss the urgent need for support of the UK’s language services sector, which holds the key to securing the UK’s long-term global trading future.

Language service companies play a pivotal role in facilitating UK companies’ export strategies in countries and markets where trading in English simply isn’t an option. They will continue to play that essential role, while remaining highly significant for multilingual communication within British public services. In a post-Brexit Britain, this will be even more true.

Equally, in our linguistically and culturally diverse society, translation and interpreting services underpin the fair and equitable treatment of speakers of more than 300 different languages in public services provision.

**By its very nature, the language services industry needs mother tongue speakers of a wide range of different languages to provide the highest quality translation and interpreting services, with linguists recruited from outside the UK.**

**To ensure UK businesses’ and the public sector’s continued access to these qualified and competent professionals, translators and interpreters must be granted a preferential status in a future immigration system. For example, salary thresholds for translators and interpreters within the future immigration system must be set at the level of the current SOC classification, instead at an unattainable blanket level of £30,000. I would ask for you to support this essential amendment.**

Two thirds of UK language service companies have already experienced difficulties recruiting suitable workers for translator and interpreter roles, and expect their recruitment challenges to accelerate post-Brexit. Without preferential treatment for linguists recruited from outside of the UK, there is a clear risk of UK-language service providers being unable to fulfil the needs of the British economy and public sector.

In addition to industry, the UK’s 1,200 language service companies, which contribute £1.2bn to the economy, also ensure the justice system, police and National Health Service, among all other civil services, have access to the information they need, when they need it, and in whichever language they require. Consequently, skilled and competent professional translators and interpreters all across the country are essential for the satisfactory completion of complex, challenging and sensitive assignments.

You may also be aware that within the Police Service, recent research on the effects of transnational organised crime has revealed how an increasingly diverse linguistic landscape is forcing police officers to investigate and combat these crime networks whose members communicate across multiple languages.

As an active member of the Association of Translation Companies, which the ATC is positioned as a leading voice within the language services sector, my colleagues and I are writing to the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel and our constituency MPs to request the same support. We would welcome your recognition of the importance of the sector and the need to safeguard it in the UK. It is essential we ensure the route to these skilled professionals remains accessible post-Brexit.

I attach our report, *Language Services: The need to invest in the UK’s international future*, and the accompanying news release. I do appreciate time is short and your time is shorter but we respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible with you to personally receive this report, which is authored on behalf of the UK’s 1,200 language service providers.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated support for the UK language industry.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Your FIRST NAME] [Your Surname]

[Position in your company], [Company]