

There is but one route for the UK on trade deals now. T...

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:58 pm

Do you remember all those 'oven ready' trade deals we were going to have which would be 'the easiest thing to negotiate'? The [FT](#) reports this morning that:

The British government has abandoned hopes of reaching a US-UK trade deal ahead of this autumn's American presidential election, with British officials blaming the Covid-19 pandemic for slow progress.

It adds:

Prime minister Boris Johnson and international trade secretary Liz Truss had hoped to conclude a fast-track agreement by late summer, which would be hailed as an early win from leaving the European Union. But senior government figures have concluded no comprehensive deal is possible before the November poll as the two sides grapple over contentious issues such as whether to allow US agricultural products into the UK market.

And I suspect it's safe to say that this will remain the case for a very long time to come.

The claims made about easy to negotiate trade deals were lies.

The claims as to the benefits they would give rise to were also false.

There is but one route for the UK on trade deals now. The terms will be dictated to us, and they will be unfavourable.

That was what this was always going to mean. The only people feigning any surprise are those who spun a false yarn in the first place.