# Starmer optimistic about potential US trade deal amid tariff concerns



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is optimistic about the potential for a trade deal with the United States, linked to an expected visit to Scotland this summer where he hopes to meet King Charles. The meeting is seen as crucial in light of the recently imposed tariffs by US President Donald Trump, which have raised concerns about the impact on the UK economy.

The White House has provided two tentative windows for President Trump’s visit to the UK, either in June or, more likely, later between late August and early September. Following these discussions, it is anticipated that King Charles will host Trump at Balmoral Castle, alongside playing golf at Trump's Turnberry resort—a detail that has surfaced through provisional reports from The Telegraph.

In February, Sir Keir Starmer officially invited the President for an unprecedented second state visit during discussions in the Oval Office, where he presented the invitation from the King. Trump expressed positive sentiments about his relationship with King Charles, stating, "He's a beautiful man, a wonderful man, and we appreciate it." He mentioned, "I've known him, gotten to know him very well actually, first term and now second term," underscoring the bond between the two.

The context of these royal meetings is set against a backdrop of economic turmoil triggered by Trump's decision to impose a 10% tariff on UK products, which is set to take effect imminently. This announcement has reverberated through global stock markets, causing significant declines—the FTSE 100 experienced its steepest drop since the pandemic, losing nearly 5% in a single day. Approximately £175 billion has been erased from the UK stock market within the week, significantly impacting pensions and savings for many citizens.

In response to these developments, Starmer has been engaging with foreign leaders, including calls with Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, to discuss the implications of the tariffs. The leaders concurred that a full-scale trade war would have "extremely damaging" consequences. Starmer is conducting further discussions over the weekend, hoping to formulate a collaborative international stance against the tariffs.

Despite the negative fallout from Trump's tariffs, he has made remarks suggesting that Starmer was content with the decisions made regarding trade. "He was very happy about how we treated them on tariffs," Trump claimed while addressing reporters before a flight to Florida.

The impending tariffs—set to resonate across various sectors—come at a time when global markets are already experiencing instability. For instance, the Dow Jones Index also took a significant hit, falling by 5.5%. Countries like China are responding in kind; Beijing has announced plans to implement a robust 34% tariff on all US imports starting in April.

As the UK seeks to navigate these turbulent economic waters, Downing Street is reportedly working to prepare a measured response to the tariffs while consulting with businesses to assess the impacts of any counter-measures. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, reiterated the government's commitment to securing the best possible deal for British industries, stating, "Of course, we don't want to see tariffs on UK exports, and we're working hard as a government in discussion with our counterparts in the US."

Opposition leaders, including those from the Liberal Democrats, have voiced concerns that the government's attempts to placate the Trump administration are ineffective. They contend that there is a pressing need for a collaborative response among European and Commonwealth allies to mitigate the impacts of the tariffs and stabilize trading relations.

Ultimately, the planned royal visit, if it proceeds as hoped, could serve not only as a diplomatic gesture but also as a strategic opportunity to engage in critical trade discussions during an economically volatile time for the UK amidst the unfolding global trade landscape.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/keir-starmer-and-donald-trump-discuss-productive-talks-on-us-uk-trade-deal/articleshow/119773720.cms> - This article supports claims about ongoing discussions between Keir Starmer and Donald Trump regarding a US-UK trade agreement, highlighting the optimism about securing a deal despite the imposition of tariffs by the US.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-preparing-for-all-eventualities-ahead-of-trump-tariffs-starmer-says-13340444> - This news piece provides insight into Sir Keir Starmer's efforts to prepare the UK for potential US tariffs and the progress in trade talks, emphasizing a calm approach to avoid a trade war.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - The original article source discusses Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's optimism about a potential US-UK trade deal, its connection to a royal meeting, and the economic challenges posed by Trump's tariffs.
* <https://www.unherd.com/2025/04/why-starmer-shouldnt-trust-trump/> - This article questions Keir Starmer's trust in Donald Trump, referencing the economic implications of aligning closely with the US and the tariffs' impact on the UK economy.
* <https://www.vox.com/2023/2/27/23585323/trump-tariffs-biden-trade-policy> - Although not directly linked to the latest news, this article generally discusses US trade policies and tariffs under Trump, which can inform discussions on current tariff impacts and global reactions.