

# **TIRITI O WAITANGI ASSESSMENT OF NZ UK FTA:**

***MĀORI BUSINESS, KAIMAHI  
AND WĀHINE MĀORI***

*\*This analysis is as accurate as possible within the time available*



**SPECULATIVE  
GAINS FOR  
MĀORI  
EXPORTERS**

**There are no direct gains in the FTA for Māori exporters.**

- They would take a share of general gains in sectors where Māori businesses are strong.
- Those gains for NZ are already minimal according to the modelling: 0.1% of GDP by the time the FTA is fully in force in 15 years.

**Even that's an over-estimate because:**

- NZ exports to UK may be redirected from other markets eg China, meaning no new production or jobs;
- UK middle-men may pocket tariff cuts, so UK consumer aren't enticed to more NZ products;
- UK supermarkets are promising to support local products and UK consumers may "buy British".



REALITY  
CHECK ON  
IMPACTS FOR  
MĀORI  
BUSINESS

**Gains to Māori business are expected to come from:**

- removing UK taxes on imports from NZ (tariffs)
  - for goods like fish, forestry, wine, kiwifruit, Manuka honey immediately
  - for beef, sheep, butter, cheese over between 6 and 16 years,
- reducing red tape, making exporting easier.

A study quoted on Te Taumata's website says the UK FTA could result in "hundreds of new jobs and more than \$13 million of additional GDP" for Māori.

- **If correct it would only be a \$13 million increase**, after costs, for a Māori asset base of \$68 billion - 0.0002%.
- \$13 million today **would buy about 9 houses in Auckland ...**



# THERE ARE DOWNSIDES TO INCREASING PRODUCTION

- **Increasing production needs to be balanced with its known downsides, eg.**
  - more carbon emissions and climate impacts, and more irrigation and polluted waterways, from more agricultural production;
  - more incentives for overfishing and dumping lower-value fish;
  - environmental damage from forestry debris.
- **The Environment Chapter 22 says UK and NZ will cooperate on addressing such issues, but allows them to continue business as usual**
  - Cabinet's mandate to negotiators is usually that NZ doesn't have to change anything,
  - eg exemption for agriculture from the ETS,
  - the property rights-based ITQ system for fish,
  - forest owners not made responsible for waste that harms the whenua, awa and communities, (see the separate Tiriti assessment on Te Taiao)



# SMALL PROMISES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Both wāhine Māori and rangatahi Māori are usually small businesses (called small and medium enterprises or SMEs).

- **The soft and unenforceable Chapter 24 on SMEs says the UK and NZ will**
  - help them with online information,
  - cooperate to facilitate various programmes, and
  - *“promote the participation in international trade of SMEs owned by under-represented groups, such as women, youth, Māori and minority groups”*.

Less red tape and support programmes may help some SMEs, but they will still have to compete with corporations that are the main beneficiaries of the FTA.



# IMPACTS ON MĀORI JOBS

- **The Taumata said its research shows the UK FTA will create “hundreds of new jobs”**
  - Again, there’s no guarantee new jobs from any increased exports would go to Māori.
  - The FTA may make it easier for professionals to work in UK, and vice versa, (Annex 9-A) but that won’t benefit a lot of Māori.
- **There are lots of other rules that can impact on NZ jobs:**
  - UK contractors can bring offshore workers to fulfill contracts in NZ (Ch 13)
  - British investments can’t be made to hire local labour (Art 14.8.1(i))
  - British investors can’t be made to process their products (eg logs) here (Art 14.1(b))
  - British firms can bid for more NZ government contracts and perform them offshore (Ch 16)
  - More services can be delivered into NZ from the UK (Art 9.7)
- **NZ firms could do the same, but economic reality means this will mainly benefit UK firms, and it’s not obvious if or how *Māori* workers would benefit.**





- The FTA has a labour chapter (Ch 23) that is mainly rhetorical
  - confirming UK and NZ's existing international obligations (Art 23.5)
  - supporting good labour practices (Arts 23.4.2, 23.6).
- Businesses will be encouraged to adopt voluntary corporate responsibility initiatives. (Art 23.10)





The UK and NZ promise to cooperate on labour issues (Art 23.11).

- Each will implement policies “it considers appropriate” to ensure equal opportunities and inclusive labour market, protect against discrimination, reduce pay gaps,
- and develop cooperation activities on non-discrimination and gender equality to “improve capacity and conditions for women in trade and the workplace”. (Art 23.8)

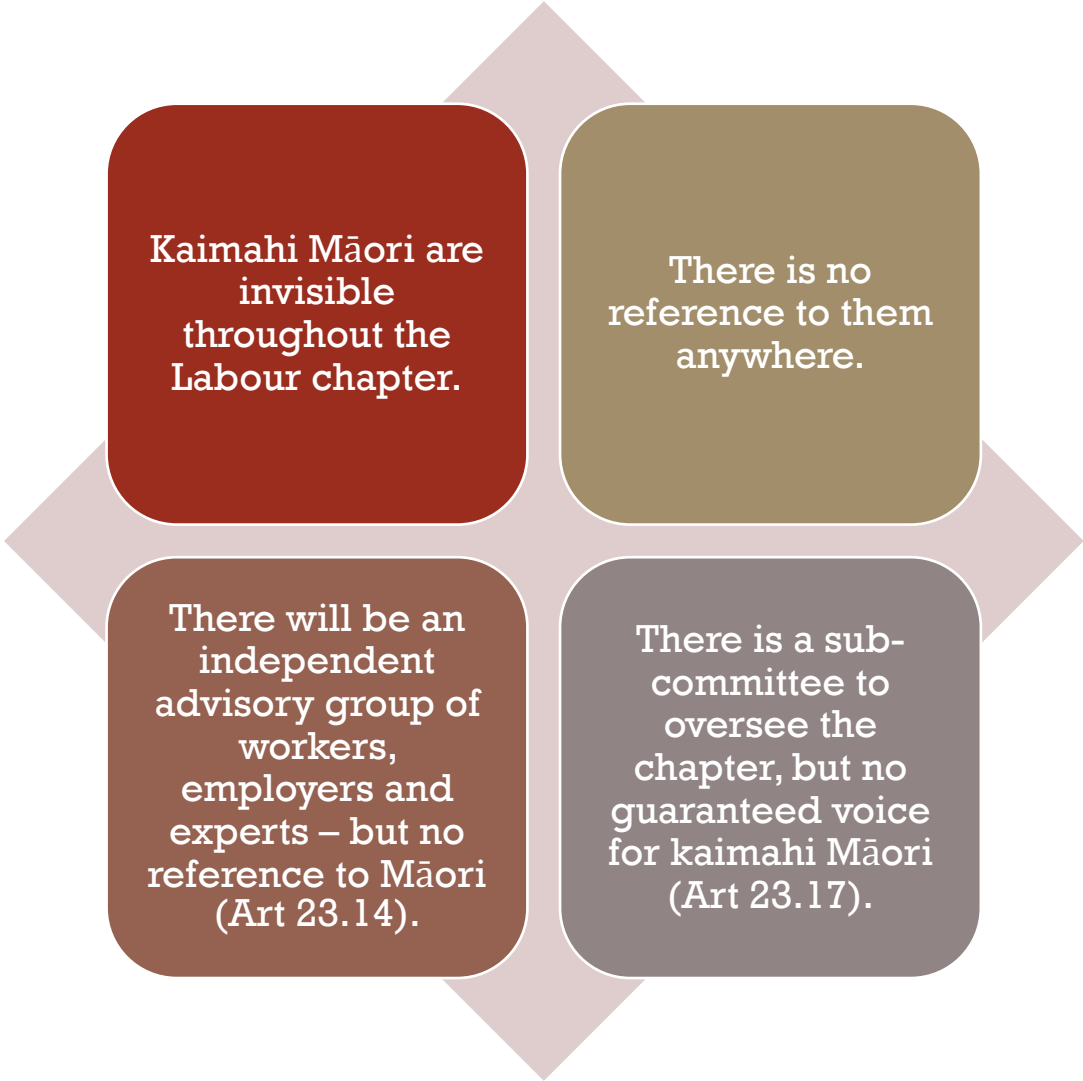
Although the chapter is “soft”, it is enforceable through a special process (Arts 23.18-22).

However, complaints about breaches of labour rights have to show the breach was aiming to encourage trade or investment (23.5 fn 1, 23.6.4)





**KAIMAHI  
MĀORI ARE  
INVISIBLE**



Kaimahi Māori are invisible throughout the Labour chapter.

There is no reference to them anywhere.

There will be an independent advisory group of workers, employers and experts – but no reference to Māori (Art 23.14).

There is a sub-committee to oversee the chapter, but no guaranteed voice for kaimahi Māori (Art 23.17).



## **Chapter 25 on Trade and Gender Equality**

- refers to wāhine Māori (Art 25.1)
- There is a lot of rhetoric about the importance of “gender-responsive policies” and inclusion and eliminating all forms of gender discrimination *in trade*.

### **The chapter aims to “advance women’s economic empowerment and promote gender equality” (Art 25.2) by**

- implementing existing international obligations (which they have to do anyway);
- identifying barriers to women’s participation (presumably not from the rules in the FTA);
- cooperating to help women in business to benefit from the FTA, and
- providing opportunities for wāhine Māori to engage in trade activities, including with a Te Ao Māori framework (but this is only “for NZ” so it’s unclear how that involves cooperation).

# NO GOVERNANCE ROLE FOR WĀHINE MĀORI

**The Trade and Gender chapter is soft in its promises and unenforceable.**

- It is overseen by an “Inclusive Trade Sub-committee” alongside the chapters on Māori, small businesses and development. (Arts 25.6, 30.8.2(e))
- The Sub-committee’s functions include facilitating communication with and participation in its activities of many civil society, workers, business owners, entrepreneurs, and “in the case of NZ wāhine Māori”.
- The sub-committee is made up of officials.
- There is no representation for wāhine Māori.
- Although there is some (undefined) Māori representation on the Māori Trade chapter, that isn’t required to include wāhine Māori.





# WHAT THE GENDER CHAPTER DOESN'T DO

- **Chapters like this are often described as “pink-washing” because**
  - they focus only on women in business, and
  - ignore the structural impact of FTAs on women’s lives, eg;
    - increased power of foreign multinationals (not known for being gender friendly)
    - big tech’s control of data and platforms (infamous for gender bias)
    - intellectual property rights over taonga (eg kaitiakitanga of wāhine Māori over Rongoa)

