



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

From George Eustice MP
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Sir Mark Hendrick MP
House of Commons
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Dear Sir Mark

Thank you for your letter of 15 October to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents about the environmental measures laid out in the Agriculture Bill. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I was delighted to read your constituents welcomed the reforms set out in our Agriculture Bill to move to a system that pays public money for public goods. The Bill marks a decisive shift in our support for farmers and ensures we will reward them for the work they do to enhance the environment around us.

At the heart of our new policy will be a system that rewards farmers for public goods such as improving soil health, creating habitats for wildlife and improved air and water quality. The financial assistance clause in the Agriculture Bill sets out the range of purposes the Secretary of State could provide payment for to support this, such as maintaining hedgerows, nectar plots for pollinators, or food sources for farmland birds.

I agree that there is a need for measures to support fairness in the supply chain and the Bill intends to strengthen transparency in the supply chain to help farmers receive a better deal for their produce in the marketplace. By collecting data from across the supply chain and sharing this with farmers, the Government will help food producers strengthen their negotiating position at the farm gate and seek a fairer return.

Please thank your constituents for their letters. I can confirm that I attended the second reading of the Bill and will continue to support the provisions within the Bill to ensure a brighter, better and greener future for farming and our natural world outside the EU.

George Eustice

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