



The Rt Hon Sir Robert Goodwill MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

14 July 2023

Dear Sir Robert

Tenant Farmers Inquiry - Oral evidence 27 June 2023

Thank you once again for the opportunity of providing oral evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee as part of its Inquiry into Tenant Farmers.

I thought it would be helpful to write to clarify remarks that I made in answering questions from Robbie Moore MP (see questions 31 and 32 in the transcript) because I think that he and I were at cross purposes.

When I was referring to the lack of a formal dispute resolution facility within Farm Business Tenancies (FBTs) under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995, I was referring specifically to the disputes relating to a landlord's unreasonable refusal to allow access to a Government financial assistance scheme or to carry out activities required in order to meet a statutory obligation. Whilst tenants with agreements regulated by the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 have access to such provisions under Section 19A of that Act, no such provisions apply within the 1995 Act. This led on from the earlier questioning from Sheryll Murray MP (see question 13) where I also made the point that the provision had been extended to FBTs by the Welsh Government under the Agriculture (Wales) Bill which is due to receive Royal assent next month. The point that I wanted the Committee to take on board was my view that the Government should follow the lead of the Welsh Government, and as recommended in my report, to extend the Section 19A provisions currently within the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 to FBT agreements under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

I am happy for this letter to stand on the record as part of the evidence considered by the Committee for this Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Rock".

Baroness Rock