



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 4887 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk

Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

22 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing regarding the Government's failure to respond to e-petition [643216](#), entitled "Reform the Grocery Supply Code of Practice to better protect farmers".

The standards for responding to e-petitions, which have been agreed between the Petitions Committee and the Leader of the House, state that Government responses should be provided within 14 days and no later than 21 days of being requested.

A response to this petition was first requested on 20 September 2023, and despite repeated requests, the Government's response is now six weeks late. This is clearly not acceptable.

When a petition receives over 10,000 signatures petitioners are entitled to a response from the Government, and this should be provided in a timely fashion.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Government's response to this petition, and an explanation for the delay in providing this, by no later than Thursday 7 December.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House.

Yours sincerely

Cat Smith MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee