



**Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Committee**

Rt Hon Sir Mark Spencer MP
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
London
By email

9 May 2024

Dear Sir Mark,

UK trade policy: food and agriculture

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on 23 April for the final session of our inquiry into UK trade policy: food and agriculture. I am writing to request additional information regarding the Border Target Operating Model and trade with the European Union, which remains the UK's most significant trading partner for agri-food products. I have written separately to the Minister for Trade Policy on points of particular relevance to the Department for Business and Trade, and to thank him for appearing alongside you at the hearing.

During this inquiry and our work on veterinary workforce shortages, witnesses have repeatedly raised the importance of securing veterinary and sanitary and phytosanitary agreements with the EU. We have also heard evidence that a reliance on paper-based systems is significantly limiting the ability of agri-food businesses to trade efficiently with the EU and other international partners.

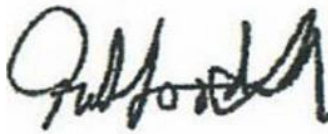
I would be grateful if you could write to the Committee in response to the following questions by 24 May:

House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

efracom@parliament.uk
020 7219 1119
Social: @CommonsEFRA
www.parliament.uk/efracom

- What steps is the Government taking to reduce cross-border regulatory requirements and decrease costs to UK traders, including with regards to securing veterinary and SPS agreements with the EU?
- How will the UK mitigate market-access barriers that arise from increasing divergence from new EU agri-food and environmental legislation, for example the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, deforestation regulations and the sustainable products initiative?
- What steps are you taking to introduce more efficient certification methods for imports and exports?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rt Hon Sir Robert Goodwill', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Sir Robert Goodwill MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee