



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

EFRA Committee
Palace of Westminster,
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP,

I am writing to inform the Committee of the publication today of the independent Farming Profitability Review, led by Baroness Minette Batters, and to set out the government's initial response to its findings.

I will always champion British farming and rural communities. I've visited farms up and down the country and in all these interactions I've seen the ingenuity, determination and pride that defines our British farming communities.

Whether its arable, livestock, horticulture or mixed enterprise, the message I hear consistently is that to become profitable, productive and resilient farm businesses need clarity and certainty from the Government.

Farming Profitability Review (FPR) Publication

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Baroness Batters for her exemplary efforts in leading this review. Drawing on her years of experience and deep understanding of working farms, alongside months of research and stakeholder engagement, she has produced a breadth of work that will help in the development of our long-term 25-year Roadmap for the sector.

The Review makes 57 recommendations and highlights the sector's potential to stand at the heart of Britain's economic renewal. It calls for stronger partnership between the Government and industry, better data to drive productivity, smarter regulation, and more targeted innovation— themes which are central to the Government's Plan for Change and essential to my vision to grow the rural economy.

We will now carefully consider the findings with the sector to support farmers to access the tools and opportunities to succeed.

Following the Review, to back British food production, I am establishing a new Farming and Food Partnership Board which I will chair alongside Farming Minister Dame Angela Eagle as deputy. It will be about serious action and a strong voice at the centre of government bringing together senior leaders in farming, food, retail, and finance

Importantly, the Board won't take a one size fits all approach. It will focus on specific agricultural sectors, tailoring growth in sectors like horticulture and in poultry, where there is significant untapped potential to increase homegrown production. I want to unlock the untapped opportunities in specific parts of the food chain and deliver specific sector plans.

Government can and must also create opportunities for farmers beyond our own shores. Our global network of agriculture attachés have unlocked an estimated £100 million in export deals this year alone. We are creating opportunities overseas through our trade deals for our world class food and drink, from British beef in the US, to a whole range of produce in India. I am going further and setting up dedicated trade missions for British agriculture so that farmers and growers can get their products to new markets overseas.

Furthermore, we will also tackle the barriers to private finance by bringing together farmers, agri-food businesses and major financial institutions to attract investment into farm transformation and productivity, including through a new Nature Positive Pathway for the agri-food supply chain.

In addition, earlier this week, Rt Hon Steve Reed MP, the Housing Secretary, and I took action to cut wasteful bureaucracy by changing planning rules to make food production a priority for councils. This will give farmers the opportunity to build the infrastructure they need to become more profitable. This will speed up their ability to build more on-farm reservoirs, greenhouses, polytunnels and farm shops.

In addition to the Government's initial response set out here, we will carefully consider all of Baroness Batters' recommendations as we continue to develop our 25-year Farming Roadmap which will be published in 2026

In the New Year, I look forward to setting out next steps in more detail towards a more resilient, more productive and more profitable farming sector.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON EMMA REYNOLDS MP