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Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs Committee

4 September 2026

Dear Alistair,

Thank you for your letter of 20 August about Brazilian beef imports and your question to the Prime Minister on the floor of the House on 1 September.

We note your concerns about the potential impact on our food and farming sector of the European Union's decision not to include Brazil on its new list of countries authorised to export certain animals and animal products to the EU, which came into effect on 3 September.

This Government is fully committed to upholding high sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) import standards to protect animal and public health, our farming industry and consumers. This Government also continues to focus on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and we recognise the effort and investment made by British farmers over many years to reduce antibiotic use and to maintain high standards of production.

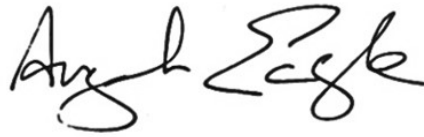
We are considering all available options for Brazilian imports into Great Britain in the wake of the EU's action.

In the meantime, based on current evidence, Defra does not consider it likely that there will be significant diversion of Brazilian beef into Great Britain as a result of the EU's import ban. Although the EU measures may displace some trade, UK imports from Brazil in 2025 accounted for only 1.4% of beef supplies, excluding imports of processed meat (e.g. corned beef). Brazilian exporters have a wide range of established alternative markets and any volumes diverted from the EU would have to pay UK MFN tariffs. The UK Agriculture Market

Monitoring Group provides a forum for the discussion of market impacts across the UK and will continue to monitor developments closely.

We will provide a fuller response as soon as possible, with details of our next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Angela Eagle'.

THE RT HON DAME ANGELA EAGLE DBE MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Jonathan Reynolds'.

THE RT HON JONATHAN REYNOLDS MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade