

28 July 2026

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
United Kingdom

Dear Mr Carmichael,

I am writing to thank you for your recent visit to New Zealand, and in particular for taking the time to meet our Chief Executive, Alan Thomson, and our Chair, Kate Acland, while you were there. Your interest in seeing our farming systems first-hand was warmly appreciated, and they both greatly valued the opportunity to speak with you.

By way of introduction, my name is Macaulay Jones, and I have the privilege of representing Beef + Lamb New Zealand here in London. Beef + Lamb New Zealand works on behalf of New Zealand's sheep and beef farmers. It is funded by farmers to advocate for the sector, invest in research and innovation, and support the long-term sustainability and profitability of pasture-based red meat production.

Having seen our farms for yourself, you will have a good sense of why New Zealand's sheep and beef sector is regarded as among the most efficient and sustainable in the world. Our systems are pasture-based, with animals grass-fed and free-ranging, and our farmers manage some of the country's most significant areas of native vegetation and biodiversity alongside their operations. New Zealand red meat has one of the lowest carbon footprints of any producer globally, and our farmers continue to reduce emissions while restoring waterways and protecting indigenous habitats — credentials built over generations, and ones we are committed to strengthening further.

I have followed the work of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee with keen interest, particularly its work on food security, climate action, biodiversity, and the future of thriving rural communities. These are challenges our two countries share, and I believe there is much we can learn from one another.

As I am based in London, I would welcome the opportunity to meet you, introduce myself properly, and be a useful point of contact on New Zealand's perspective whenever that might be helpful to you or the Committee. I would gladly do so at a time and in a manner that best suits you.

Thank you again for visiting New Zealand and for the time you gave our team. I look forward to the possibility of meeting you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Macaulay Jones".

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