

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th December 2018

Dear Commitment,

RE: FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

Thank you for contacting me recently about future agricultural policy; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

We can expect many amendments to be made to the *Agriculture Bill* as it passes through Parliament. I look forward to the Bill coming back to the House, at which point Members of Parliament will have the opportunity to vote on any amendments brought forward there.

Food and farming is a bedrock of our economy and environment, generating £112 billion a year and helping shape some of our finest habitats and landscapes. I am pleased that the Government will continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of this Parliament, in 2022. Once we have the freedom to move away from the Common Agricultural Policy, the proposal is for an 'agricultural transition' period in England, allowing farmers to prepare for a new system.

Leaving the European Union creates a once in a generation opportunity to design a domestic agricultural policy that will stand the test of time. Starting from first principles, we can bring in innovative new ideas to support investment in healthy, sustainable British food production, and do much better for farming, the environment, and animal welfare. The Government proposes to move to a system of paying farmers public money for public goods: principally environmental enhancement.

Ministers have consulted widely with farmers and others, and will publish a response shortly; this has focused primarily on England because they recognise that devolution provides each administration with the powers to decide its own priorities. They are keenly aware of the importance of seasonal labour, so will work with the industry to ensure it has the right people with the right skills.

Farming is such an important industry in Corby & East Northamptonshire and I regularly engage with local farmers to hear their views on the direction of the industry and their ideas for future policy, and will continue to do so.

We must take this opportunity to use public money to reward environmentally-responsible land use, as well as maintaining and enhancing high standards of animal welfare. I am convinced that we will harness this opportunity, and ensure that our best days as a food and farming nation lie ahead of us.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes 

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE