



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

15 JAN 2018

From George Eustice MP
Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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Jo Swinson MP
House of Commons
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Our ref: MC2017/13825/BK

10⁺ January 2018

Dear Jo

Thank you for your letter of 15 December to the Secretary of State, on behalf of your constituent, about food standards after Britain leaves the European Union. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government is proud of our high standards and when we leave the EU we will keep our existing UK legislation, and the EU Withdrawal Bill will convert EU law into UK law as it applies at the moment of exit. Your constituent raised various points and I would like to address each in turn:

It is essential that we maintain public confidence in the food we all eat; we will not water down our trusted high standards of food safety and animal welfare as part of any future trade deal.

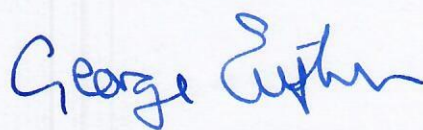
Pesticides are highly regulated in the UK and can only be used if scientific assessment establishes that they pose no unacceptable risks to people or the environment. We are considering future arrangements for their regulation once we leave the EU, but this will continue to be one of our highest priorities.

We have clear regulatory legislation on labelling that enables consumers to make more informed choices. This facilitates greater trust and confidence in UK food and farming amongst the public and international trading partners.

We have huge ambitions for our farming industry, and leaving the EU gives us the opportunity to set up new frameworks to support our farmers. We want to develop a new approach to food and farming that combines sustainable productivity with increased environmental benefits and protection.

Our fishing communities are immensely valuable and supporting them will form an important part of leaving the EU. Setting our own quotas will help ensure prosperity for a new generation of fishermen as well as preserve and increase fish stocks.

While it is too early to discuss the specifics of trade negotiations with particular countries, maintaining safety and public confidence in the food we all eat is a high priority for the government. Any future trade deal must work for UK consumers, farmers, and businesses.



GEORGE EUSTICE MP