



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

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Dear Rachael,

Thank you for your email of 7 August to the Secretary of State, on behalf of your constituent, about the future of agricultural subsidies once the UK has left the EU. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and I am sorry for the delay in doing so.

Leaving the European Union means leaving the Common Agricultural Policy. We now have an historic opportunity to take back control of our policies on agriculture and the environment and change our approach for the better.

We recognise the valuable role hill farmers play in our rural communities across the UK and especially in Scotland. Support for those who work in upland areas is critical to keeping our countryside healthy. As you are aware, this Government has pledged that when we leave the EU, we will continue to commit the same cash total in funds currently received in support from the Common Agricultural Policy until 2022, providing much needed certainty to farmers and landowners.

I understand concerns and looking beyond 2022, I believe that continued support is important, but so is reform. We need to take the opportunity that being outside the Common Agricultural Policy will give us to use public money to incentivise environmentally-responsible land use across the country, including upland areas.

We want to ensure that we have a system of agricultural support that respects the work of farmers including farmers working in upland areas and puts environmental protection and enhancement first.

H. Jones

PP. GEORGE EUSTICE MP

