

Joint Statement by the Farming and Food Partnership Board

2nd Meeting, Tuesday 19 May 2026

The Farming and Food Partnership Board held its second meeting on Tuesday 19 May 2026. The Board was joined by a guest, the founder of 2 Sisters Food Group, Ranjit Boparan.

Members again recognised the significant pressures facing farmers and growers, including rising input costs as a result of global shocks, and reaffirmed the Board's mission to drive medium to long term growth and strengthen the contribution of domestically produced food to national food security.

At the meeting members also:

- Agreed to prioritise making progress on the horticulture and poultry sector growth plans before work on others.
- Recommended an expert group be commissioned to complete the poultry sector growth plan and that the plan's scope would be determined by that group including environmental and animal welfare considerations.
- Noted progress in developing the horticulture sector growth plan and endorsed the scope to include large-scale edible growers, agroecological growers, and ornamental growers.
- Noted the importance of using demand-side data to identify the best markets for domestic production growth.

Members highlighted the importance of, and agreed to provide input to, ongoing work within Defra and across government to:

- Unlock infrastructure planning barriers impacting food and farming businesses.
- Improve how water is managed on farms.
- Improve market monitoring with demand-side supply chain data.

Issued on behalf of the Farming and Food Partnership Board:

- The Rt. Hon. Emma Reynolds, Defra Secretary of State
- Dame Angela Eagle, Minister for Farming
- Tom Bradshaw, National Farmers' Union (NFU) President
- Robert Sheasby, Chief Executive of the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
- Sarah Bradbury, Chief Executive of the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD)
- Kate Nicholls, Chair of Hospitality UK (UKH)
- Emily Norton, Chair of the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)
- Andrew Opie, Director of Food & Sustainability at the British Retail Consortium (BRC)
- Karen Betts, Chief Executive of the Food & Drink Federation (FDF)

