



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2020

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about farming and leaving the European Union.

I remain committed to supporting our agricultural industries and farmers under any circumstances, whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a deal. The Agriculture Bill will allow the Secretary of State to provide the support that people need and help our farmers to take advantage of new opportunities that will become available.

While preparing for all outcomes, the Government has been preparing for the possibility of no deal, so there are contingency plans in place to minimise disruption for the food and farming sector as much as possible. To provide certainty to farmers and landowners, the same cash total in funds for farm support has been committed until 2022, including all funding under both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the current Common Agricultural Policy. This applies to the whole of the UK, in both a negotiated and a no-deal scenario.

The Agriculture Bill will include a seven-year transition period, during which Direct Payments will be phased out gradually. This will give farmers time to adapt and prepare for the new environmental land management system, which will allow them to decide how they can best deliver public goods from their business and their land.

Future policies will help farmers continue to provide a supply of healthy, home-grown produce made to high environmental and animal welfare standards. Powers in the Agriculture Bill will be used to provide support for farmers to invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to improve their productivity. The Bill will also improve the position of farmers in the supply chain, address unfair trading practices and make available funding for business minded farmers who want to become more productive.

Thank you again for taking time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

Tel: 020 7219 7048 Fax: 020 7219 1375
Email: chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.heatonharris.com