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Jo Swinson MP
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Our ref: MC2019/05146/FA

11 April 2019

h to.

Thank you for your email of 28 February about food standards. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I am of course happy to once again confirm that the current regulatory framework for food and feed safety is well established and designed to protect the public's health. I am committed to ensuring that consumers and businesses in the UK will continue to benefit from the same high standards for food and feed safety after the UK leaves the EU. We are committed to making sure that any future trade agreements work for consumers, farmers and businesses across the UK, and 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 as part of any future trade agreement.

The landmark Agriculture Bill, to which you also refer, sets out an ambitious future for farming outside of the EU, moving towards a system where public money is invested in things which the public value, in particular protecting and enhancing our environment. Amendment NC4 is just one proposed amendment which will be discussed soon at Report Stage. For reasons I am sure you will understand it would be inappropriate for me to opine on that or any other proposed amendment ahead of the discussions at Report stage, other than to say that the Government is considering all of the amendments and will respond to them ahead of or at Report stage.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance with this or any other matters in the future.

With best wishes,


DAVID RUTLEY MP