



December 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the UK's future agricultural policy.

In 2019, I stood on a manifesto which committed to maintaining the current annual budget to farmers. I am glad that this was honoured in the 2021/22 Spending Review.

The UK's future agricultural policy will be made up of three component parts: the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which will pay farmers for management of their land in a more environmentally sustainable way; Local Nature Recovery, which will pay farmers for actions that support local nature recovery and deliver local environmental priorities; and Landscape Recovery, which will support landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term projects focussed on change of land use by farmers.

I know that many farm enterprises depend on subsidy payments to generate a profit, which is why Ministers have created a seven-year transition period to give farmers time to adapt to the changes. This period will include year-on-year reductions to the direct payments scheme, while simultaneously making year-on-year increases to the money available in the environmental schemes.

Between 2021 and 2024, ministers will help farmers prepare for this change by expanding the existing countryside stewardship scheme and opening the new sustainable farming incentive.

The Secretary of State has given an update providing further details around how farmers will receive payments for the different schemes under the Agricultural Transition Plan. This includes the core elements of the Sustainable Farming Incentive that will be available to farmers and land managers in 2022, including details on the standards included and the benefits for those farmers taking up the offer. A pilot has now started, with farmers across the country helping to develop and test elements of the scheme before they are added into the live service between 2022 and 2024.

Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update>

The Government will also make a significant number of grants available to support farmers in reducing their costs and improving their profitability.

By 2027, the Government wants farmers to manage their business in a way that delivers profitable food production and the recovery of nature, fusing the best modern technology available today with the rediscovery of the traditional art of good farm husbandry. This is a once in a generation



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chance to design our new farming system and I know my Ministerial colleagues want to do that together with farmers to make sure that it works for them.

Thank you again for taking the 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