



October 2022

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Government's commitments to farming and nature.

I would like to assure you that claims that the Government is rowing back on commitments to our farming reforms or nature are wholly untrue.

Outside of the European Union, the UK is free from the Common Agricultural Policy allowing us have policies which are more localised and better for farming and nature; but still maintain the large amount of money we spend in this area.

Essentially the aim is to support the choices that individual farmers make for their farms, boost food production and agricultural productivity. In turn this should bolster the rural economy and support communities across the country.

Further, the Environment Act 2021 includes a commitment to halt the decline of nature by 2030. This Government will never undermine its commitments to the environment in pursuit of growth. Any reforms will rightly contribute to growing our economy in equal step with successfully meeting our commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan and the legally binding environmental targets through this Act.

Internationally, the UK has committed to protect 30 per cent of its land and ocean by 2030, through the Leaders Pledge for Nature, which committed to putting nature and biodiversity globally on a road to recovery by 2030.

We have the chance to have a farming industry that is more independent and resilient. It will be an industry that champions economic growth and increases domestic production while returning nature to the land and improving the natural assets that support food production, such as high-quality soil.

Some of the anxiety expressed by campaign groups centres on Investment Zones and is also misplaced. The purpose of speeding up the planning system in defined Investment Zone areas is to cut back on unnecessary bureaucratic requirements and processes that slow down high-quality development. While the Government has set an intention to remove burdensome EU requirements as part of the streamlined planning process in Investment Zones, guidance provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is clear that this will target requirements which "create paperwork and stall development but do not necessarily protect the environment". I understand that key



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planning policies which ensure developments protect our precious natural heritage and maintain national policy on Green Belt will continue to apply.

I hope this reply goes some way to remove the concerns you have about these issues.

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**