

Jane Hunt MP



House of Commons

24 March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about the *Agriculture Bill*.

The Government is currently reflecting on concerns about the Bill raised during Committee Stage, as well as those raised by MPs and interested parties. I look forward to the Bill coming back to the House, at which point I will have the opportunity to vote on any amendments brought forward.

It is absolutely vital that people across the UK have confidence in the food they eat. I, therefore, welcome the Government's very clear commitment that any future trade agreements must uphold the UK's high levels of food safety, animal welfare standards, and environmental protection. The *EU Withdrawal Act* transferred all existing EU food safety provisions onto the UK statute book, and Ministers have made clear these standards will not be watered down in pursuit of any trade deal now that the UK has left the EU.

Public consultations will be run ahead of any negotiations for new trade agreements, while any final agreement will be scrutinised and ratified by Parliament. These measures will ensure that both Parliament and the public can have their say on the content of any potential new trade agreements, including in the area of food standards and animal welfare. Consultations have already taken place on the [USA, Australia, New Zealand](#) and the [Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (CPTPP).

I hope that this information is reassuring. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane".

Jane Hunt MP