



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

From George Eustice MP
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Mike Hedges, Chair
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Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 6 October to the Secretary of State about the future of farming and fisheries after the United Kingdom has left the European Union. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for these policy areas and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

As announced in the Queen's Speech last June, we intend to introduce a Bill on Fisheries during this parliament. We aim to publish the white paper on fisheries soon and before introducing the Fisheries Bill, which will set out our medium term vision for sustainable fisheries management.

On 27 February the Government launched a consultation which sets out the policy framework for agriculture in England after the UK leaves the EU. The vast majority of the paper is about policies for England. However, we will be working alongside devolved administrations to establish common frameworks, where necessary. At the heart of the paper is a proposal to scale down direct payments under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), and reallocate funding to a new system of paying farmers "public money for public goods" - principally their work to enhance the environment.

The consultation will be open for a period of ten weeks. We would welcome input from The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales and its stakeholders. During this time, responses can be made online via citizen space at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/farming/future-of-farming/>

GEORGE EUSTICE MP