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AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Thank you for your letter of 15 July to the Secretary of State. I am replying on his behalf. Apologies for the delay in responding.

This is an important time in the history of the UK as we prepare to leave the EU. The Government is aware of the importance of the agriculture sector and its contribution to the UK economy. In the year 2014 the value of UK agricultural production was £25.8 billion, and we recognise the sector's expertise in manufacturing agricultural supplies and equipment.

It is key for the UK that, once negotiations commence, we develop a healthy relationship and good communication with the EU and our European partners. At every step of this negotiation we will seek to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people and UK businesses.

The Department for Exiting the EU will speak to as many firms, organisations and bodies as possible, including those in the agriculture sector, in order to establish their priorities and the opportunities for the whole of the UK.

My team are currently setting up a full programme of meetings and visits to ensure that my ministerial colleagues and I hear direct from all regions of the UK. In the meantime, my officials would welcome your views and thoughts on the issues we face.

RT HON DAVID JONES MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION