

15<sup>th</sup> July 2016



**The Rt Hon David Davis MP**  
**Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union**  
**House of Commons,**  
**London, SW1A 0AA**

Dear Mr Davis

May I first of all welcome your appointment to this pivotal position and, importantly, your desire to consult widely ahead of the finalisation of a negotiation strategy and the subsequent triggering of the Article 50 process.

Agriculture and food together form the UK's biggest manufacturing sector. It is heavily entwined within EU regulatory process and we have the rest of the EU as both our biggest customer and our largest supplier, either directly or indirectly. We welcome the fact therefore that you have already recognised the need to ensure agricultural interests are included in your consultation process.

How the industry is supported domestically, outside of the CAP, is something I know you will receive comprehensive input on from the Farming Unions across the UK. We would however wish to draw to the attention of you and your officials that the trading implications of the referendum result go well beyond the farm gate. AIC is already working to collate the views of our trading members who, crucially, have a comprehensive knowledge of trade flows and trading requirements from both an import and export perspective. We are also working to co-ordinate the views of other parts of the industry to help focus input into, and liaison with Government.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to brief officials within your department on the post-farmgate industry to ensure your final negotiation strategy is fully informed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'David Caffall'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

(electronic signature)

**David Caffall**  
**Chief Executive**