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**23 April 2026**

Dear John,

I am writing following the publication of your election manifesto, and in particular, the proposal to introduce a price cap on certain essential food items. This policy has generated significant interest across the media, the public, and our membership. Given its potential implications, I am seeking further clarity on how it would operate in practice and, crucially, your assurance that it will not have unintended negative consequences for Scotland's farmers and crofters.

We fully recognise and share the objective of ensuring food remains affordable and accessible. However, there is growing concern among our members about how such a policy would be implemented, and where the financial burden of any price intervention would ultimately fall. This is particularly important in the current context, where food prices in the UK are already among the lowest in Europe, driven by an intensely competitive retail sector.

Farmers and crofters are operating within increasingly tight margins, facing sustained increases in input costs including fertiliser, fuel, labour and regulatory compliance. In this environment, any additional downward pressure on farmgate prices - whether direct or indirect - risks undermining the viability of domestic food production. There is a clear and widespread concern that, without appropriate safeguards, primary producers could be expected to absorb the cost of maintaining capped retail prices – an outcome which would be fundamentally unworkable for Scotland's farming and crofting businesses.

Against that backdrop, we would welcome further detail on several key points:

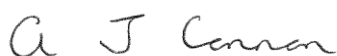
- How the proposed cap would be structured and enforced across the supply chain;
- What specific measures will be put in place to ensure that primary producers are not disproportionately impacted;
- Whether there are plans to provide support to farmers and growers should market returns be adversely affected;
- How this policy aligns with the Scottish Government's ambitions for food security, sustainability, and resilient rural economies.

Scotland's farmers and crofters remain committed to producing high-quality, sustainable food for the nation. However, this must be supported by a policy framework that ensures fairness and viability at every stage of the supply chain. Any intervention that distorts the market without protecting primary producers risks damaging domestic production and, ultimately, undermining the very food security objectives it seeks to achieve.

I would welcome the opportunity to engage with you directly on this matter to ensure that any measures introduced deliver for consumers while remaining equitable for producers.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Connon

NFU Scotland President