

# BACK BORIS

11 July 2019

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter and for giving me the opportunity to set out my views on the important matters you raise.

We need a Brexit that creates the right conditions for farming in Scotland to thrive, and that works as best as it can for the 8,500 agricultural businesses the length and breadth of Scotland you represent.

This is why I will be aiming to ensure that we have a trade deal that minimises friction on the cross-border transfer of goods, while ensuring that our border is secure. I am aware of the disruption that delays could have, and will be working to minimise the potential for delays through rigorous planning. A huge amount of work had been done over the last 3 years to prepare the agriculture sector and supply chains to get things ready for Brexit, and I will continue this hard work and to support the agriculture industry in Scotland.

You mention the workforce in the agri-food sector. We need an Australian-style points-based system, and levels of immigration should reflect the particular needs of the sectors concerned. This will be a focus of the review into the UK's immigration system that I will commission, to ensure that every sector and industry in the economy has access to the workers that it needs. I have always been in favour of talented people being able to come to this country and make their lives here.

Taking back control of our agriculture policy gives us a unique opportunity to make real improvements in domestic production. It is important now, more than ever, to champion a One Nation agenda that will invest in all parts of our United Kingdom and give everyone a stake in our country's future. As mentioned at the hustings in Scotland, I will make up the shortfall in funding that Scottish farming have experienced as a result of receiving lower than average per hectare payments.

The Agriculture Bill that is currently before Parliament also makes a number of beneficial improvements, and if elected I am keen to work with you all at NFU Scotland to look at what other changes we can introduce to boost standards, enhance consumer safety and encourage domestic production.

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I have made clear that I am committed to investing in areas that have been left behind – especially rural areas, and I am also determined to give the agriculture industry the support they need.

I will be happy to discuss specific concerns that NFU Scotland have as we strike the best deal for our country.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP**

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