



## Department for International Trade

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Dear Iain,

Thank you for your recent correspondence of 9<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> March to Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, raising the views of a number of your constituents on a US trade deal, animal welfare and food safety standards. I am replying as this matter falls within my remit.

The Government remains firmly committed to upholding our high environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards, and now that we have left the European Union the UK will decide how we set and maintain our own standards and regulations.

The UK will maintain its own autonomous Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime to protect human, animal and plant life and health, as well as the environment - reflecting its existing high standards. The UK's independent food regulators will continue to ensure that all food imports into the UK comply with these standards.

We have been clear that any future deal with the US must work for UK consumers, farmers and companies. Without exception, imports into the UK will meet our stringent food safety standards.

I hope this information is helpful and of reassurance to your constituents.

Yours ever,

**THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP**  
Minister of State  
Department for International Trade