



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2018.

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Agricultural Bill Campaign**

Food and farming is a bedrock of our economy and environment, generating £112 billion a year and helping shape some of our finest habitats and landscapes. I am pleased that the Government will continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of this Parliament in 2022. Once we have the freedom to move away from the Common Agricultural Policy, the proposal is for an 'agricultural transition' period in England, allowing farmers to prepare for a new system.

Leaving the EU creates a once in a generation opportunity to design a domestic agricultural policy that will stand the test of time. Starting from first principles we can bring in innovative new ideas to support investment in healthy, sustainable British food production and do much better for farming, the environment and animal welfare. The Government proposes to move to a system of paying farmers public money for public goods: principally environmental enhancement.

Ministers have consulted widely with farmers and others, and have published the Agriculture Bill alongside their response; it focuses mostly on England because they recognise that devolution provides each administration with the powers to decide its own priorities. They are keenly aware of the importance of seasonal labour, so will work with the industry to ensure it has the right people with the right skills.

Agriculture is a devolved matter here in Scotland, and so responsibility for promoting farming rests with the Scottish Government. Unfortunately, the SNP-led Scottish Government have decided to exclude Scotland from most of the UK Government's Agriculture Bill, meaning that Scotland would be the only part of the United Kingdom where its main provisions would not apply.

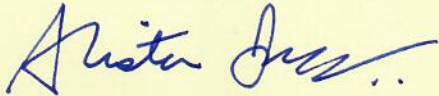
I am even more disappointed that the SNP have failed to bring forward their own alternative plan for Scottish agriculture. This has left Scottish farmers, the wider agriculture sector, and rural communities across Scotland in the dark as to what Scotland's agricultural support system is going to look like after Brexit. I believe this decision is deeply irresponsible and exposes the Scottish Government's neglect of rural Scotland.

My Scottish Conservative colleagues have called on the Scottish Government to end this uncertainty, and I couldn't agree more. Farmers in Scotland, and the wider Scottish agriculture sector, deserve clarity as soon as possible as to whether the Scottish Government is going to give them the support they need after Brexit.

Please respond to:  
Constituency office: 20 Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1BY  
Phone: 01387 216109 Westminster: 020 7219 2994  
Email: [alister.jack.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alister.jack.mp@parliament.uk) [www.alisterjack.co.uk](http://www.alisterjack.co.uk)

We must take this opportunity to use public money to reward environmentally-responsible land use, as well as maintaining and enhancing high standards of animal welfare. I am convinced that we will harness this opportunity and ensure that our best days as a food and farming nation lie ahead of us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alister Jack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Alister Jack DL MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**