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The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

By email

ps.george.eustice@defra.gov.uk

23 November 2020

Dear George,

I am again writing to you jointly with Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, and Edwin Poots MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

The previous letter issued in our names on 30 October remains unanswered. In that letter, we made clear our shared and reasonable expectations, all based upon public commitments made by the UK Government. These were merely to be involved in meaningful collective engagement to agree the principles for the allocation of funding and to ensure that none of us would be left in a position where we lost out as a result of leaving the EU.

The present proposal set-out by HMT is not acceptable. The lack of authentic collective engagement involving HMT on future principles is not acceptable. The disrespect this demonstrates to the devolution settlements and the reneging on public commitments is not acceptable.

You are well aware of our shared concerns. A 'netting-off' of the 2014 to 2020 programme means that funds committed according to devolved priorities are no longer being honoured. A flawed proposed methodology that fails to recognise CAP expenditure profiles and that is based upon one year in isolation. A lack of commitment to fund the agreed principle's within the Bew Review after 2021-22.

Cumulatively you are asking our farming and rural communities to lose out on the following levels of funding over the 2021-22 to 2024-25 period;

- Northern Ireland – **£34 million**
- Scotland – **£170.1 million**
- Wales – **£160 million**

Further to these fundamental concerns, you will also be very aware of representations made by the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government regarding the 2021-22 budget. The failure by HMT to account for Inter-Pillar transfers in payment year 2020-21 has resulted in the Scottish budget being **£49.5 million** less than expected and the Welsh budget being **£42**

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million less than expected. We trust you will recognise this as an administrative oversight and support the remedying of this without delay.

At the heart of all of these matters is the choice made by the UK Government not to collectively engage with us on an equal footing. We trust you will now seek to work with us as a matter of urgency to deliver upon your own commitments and offer certainty to all of our farming communities and your own.

I am copying this letter to The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, The Rt Hon Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales, and it is co-signed by Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, and Edwin Poots MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Yours sincerely,



LESLEY GRIFFITHS



FERGUS EWING



EDWIN POOTS

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