



Rt. Hon David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

“ April 2016

*Dear Prime Minister,*

As you will know the CLA (Country Land and Business Association) is the membership organisation for landowners, farmers and other rural businesses. We represent more than 33,000 members and together they own around half the rural land in England and Wales. Our purpose is to ensure our members have the security, certainty and support they need to make investments in their land and business.

To that end I am writing seeking your Government's assurance that plans are being developed to address significant issues for farming and the rural sector, whatever the outcome of the EU Referendum.

We welcome the comments you made on a farm visit in North Wales on 11 March, where you recognised that Government has to be ready in case of a vote for the UK to leave. Failure to plan for a UK exit would put jobs and investment in the rural economy at serious risk.

Already the lack of clarity around what is statement of fact and what is conjecture about Government plans is causing confusion, which leads to uncertainty around investment decisions and around meeting long-term environmental commitments. The rural business community is looking for more from Government, specifically to set out what would be involved in a Brexit scenario for the rural sector.

We recently sent you a copy of the CLA's report *Leave or Remain: The Decisions That Politicians Must Make to Support the Rural Economy*, which sets out the four priority areas for farming and rural businesses concerning the EU Referendum, namely:

- Access to EU and world markets for UK agricultural products must continue, as unfettered as possible;
- Ministers must assure the farming industry that payments currently delivered through the Common Agricultural Policy scheme will be delivered up to 2020, which is the end of the current scheme. We welcome working with Government on plans for what an appropriate UK scheme would look like and to ensure land managers can continue to care for the environment beyond 2020.

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- There needs to be a mechanism for those farm based businesses which rely significantly on overseas labour to continue to access the workforce they need; and
- Persuasive arguments that Government has the capacity to significantly reduce red tape and modernise regulation.

We would appreciate an early meeting to discuss these issues and to seek reassurances on these points.

Yours sincerely



**Ross Murray**  
**President**