

20 July 2026

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Minister

I would like to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister.

I would also like to reaffirm the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)'s commitment to work with you on the delivery of the government's ambitions for the country, businesses and specifically the agriculture and food sectors in promoting growth, improving profitability and productivity, strengthening the resilience of the UK agriculture sector, and enhancing our nation's food security.

The BMPA is the leading trade association representing the UK's meat processing industry. Our members play a crucial role in the food supply chain, supplying safe, nutritious, and high-quality meat products to retailers, foodservice providers, and consumers both at home and abroad. Our industry contributes over £12 billion a year to the UK economy and employs over 75,000 workers. We work closely with government, regulators, and stakeholders across agriculture and food production to ensure that the industry continues to thrive while meeting the highest standards of safety, sustainability, and animal welfare.

Given every animal reared for human consumption in this country is required by law to be slaughtered and processed in a registered abattoir, you will appreciate the significance of my members who currently process around 95% of the nation's livestock.

As you take on your new responsibilities, there are several key areas that we would welcome your active engagement. Notably, in:

- Bringing together the many strategies that Defra has issued of late into one coherent plan for the farming and food sectors, while ensuring that wider government strategies and policies, such as planning reform, access to labour, skills, training and apprenticeships and industrial policy also take better account of and link to the food and farming sectors.
- Appointing a representative of the UK processing (which covers meat, milk, poultry and eggs) sector to the Government's Food and Farming Partnership Board to ensure it truly represents the whole of the supply chain.

- Continuing to make access to overseas markets a priority
- Completing urgently a comprehensive SPS agreement with the European Union

We would also propose that you consider convening, as many of your predecessors have done, a UK Farming and Food Summit to consider the current situation on food security and how we can continue to feed the nation, not least following a few years of turbulence in supply chains as a result of global events.

Many of these challenges do not necessarily require further government money but, more often than not, just better co-ordination across government and better more transparent engagement with industry on addressing shared challenges and opportunities.

Finally, when your diary allows, I would very much welcome the opportunity to extend an invitation for you to visit one or more of our members meat processing plants. Perhaps your office could suggest some dates.

Yours sincerely



John Powell
Chief Executive