

The Rt Hon Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP  
Secretary of State  
Defra (via e-mail)

24 July 2026

Dear Dame Angela

I would like to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. As I am sure you know, you assume responsibility for a wide range of issues that are currently of vital importance to our country's food supply chain.

I am also therefore writing to reaffirm the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)'s commitment to work with you on the delivery of the government's ambitions for the agriculture sector and wider food supply chain 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.

Finally, when your diary allows, I would very much welcome:

the opportunity to meet with you to brief you on the many opportunities and challenges that the meat industry is currently facing. I would be happy to do this solely as the CEO of the BMPA or, if you would prefer, as part of a wider meat and livestock industry roundtable; and

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**