Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP
Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

John Powell
Chief Executive Officer
British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)

By email: john.powell@britishmeatindustry.org

5 November 2026

Dear John,

Following our visit to India, I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to you for your participation in the Trade Mission, and the expertise, insight and energy that you brought to the visit.

As you know, this trade mission took place at a particularly significant moment in the UK-India relationship. With the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement now in force, we have had the opportunity to demonstrate not only the ambition behind the agreement, but the practical benefits it can deliver for businesses, workers and communities across both the United Kingdom and India.

Over the course of the visit, we saw the scale of the opportunity first hand: India is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, with a rapidly expanding consumer market and increasing demand for the high-quality products that UK farmers and businesses provide. I hope that the conversations and connections established during the mission have laid foundations that will develop into enduring commercial partnerships, increased exports and new investment opportunities in the months and years ahead.

The trade mission also highlighted the importance of government and business working together to unlock opportunities and overcome barriers. As you will be aware, I was able to raise various issues faced by UK exporters with Indian officials and ministers. Please rest assured that the Government continues to work on these issues such as securing agreement on a workable Export Health Certificate.

Of course, trade missions are ultimately judged not by the meetings that take place during them, but by the outcomes that follow. I know many of you will now be pursuing leads, developing relationships and exploring commercial opportunities that began during our time in India. I encourage you to maintain that momentum.

Thank you once again for your contribution to the success of the mission. It was a privilege to travel alongside such a talented group of industry and business leaders and to see British farmers and enterprise represented so strongly on the international stage. I look forward to continuing our work together to deliver growth, investment and opportunity for every part of the UK.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON DAME ANGELA EAGLE DBE MP