



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Daniel Zeichner MP
Minister of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

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

Helen Whately MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 28 November to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents highlighting the benefits of the Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme and their concern for its future. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and apologise for the delay in doing so.

The UK has a proud horticultural heritage, and the government's commitment to the sector and its vital role in strengthening our food security remains steadfast. We recognise that it is the hard work of our farmers and growers and their passion and commitment for what they do, who not only contribute to our food security by ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply of top quality fresh produce for our tables, but who also act as guardians of our precious countryside.

Legislation is in place to close the EU legacy Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme to English Producer Organisations on 31 December 2025, and we are currently considering how best to support all our farming sectors in the future.

Yours sincerely,

DANIEL ZEICHNER MP