



6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
4 Matthew Parker St  
Westminster  
London  
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**National Sheep Association**

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Dear Prime Minister,

With the General Election fast approaching and political parties working to develop their manifestos, I would like to ask you to consider a few issues that are pertinent to some 45,000 sheep farmers across the UK.

Farmers want, and deserve, a secure and stable future. Their contribution to food production, maintaining landscapes and improving the environment and supporting rural infrastructure needs recognition from policy makers and the public.

It is vital that politicians recognise the value of extensive livestock farming in the form of sheep and cattle. These forms of food production should be recognised for their ecological and resource use sustainability and contribution to carbon capture.

UK sheep producers need policies that incentivise and reward traditional approaches to food production and land management, underpinned by appropriate technology to optimise productivity and create attractive and inspiring working conditions, within a positive approach to multi-functional land management.

There is a need for a greater level of fairness and equity in markets so that small family farms can thrive when working within large global supply chains.

There is no better time than this general election to create policies which actively encourage British citizens to support high UK standards of food production, with our produce protected from imports not meeting these high standards in the areas of carbon footprint, animal welfare, environment, and social standards.

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Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
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This is also true of investment opportunities in the form of capital grants for farm business investments to improve productivity, environmental outcomes, and sustainability generally.

There need to be robust measures that guard against the entry of animal and plant exotic diseases to the UK, and in relation to farm animals incentivise the responsible use of medicines and the control of endemic disease.

Banning the live exports of sheep is not an issue that should be used as a flagship policy to gain voters; ensuring high levels of welfare is but moving live animals across borders is not inherently cruel. There are far more intelligent ways to ensure good welfare whilst maintaining cross border trade.

NSA would be happy to meet to discuss these issues in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Stocker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Stocker  
Chief Executive