



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS

Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Rt Hon Simon Hart MP,
Secretary of State for Wales,
(*By Email*)

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Dear Secretary of State, Simon,

I hope that this letter finds you well. It is with the utmost seriousness that I write ahead of the spending review scheduled to take place tomorrow.

As you will be aware, the 2019 Conservative Party manifesto included the following pledge: “To support this transition, we will guarantee the current annual budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament”.

Serious concerns have been raised with me that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, may be on track to cut funding for agriculture in the forthcoming spending review. Indeed, you may be aware that the Devolved Governments have written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon George Eustice MP, calling for assurances that all lost EU funding will be fully replaced to provide certainty for the rural economy. For example, they are stating that our farmers and rural communities will lose out on over £200m.

Whilst I must note that I have written directly to Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, with regards to a number of matters relating to agricultural funding, including the fact that £160m remains unspent from the RDP Wales budget for 2014-2020, I am deeply concerned that the spending review might allegedly result in funding for agriculture and rural affairs being cut, and the manifesto pledge being broken.

Given the above, and our shared passion for supporting Welsh agriculture, I would be grateful if you could contact me as a matter of urgency so to clarify the spending review’s implications for rural funding in Wales. Personally, I believe that the UK Government should adhere to the manifesto commitment, and would be grateful if you could use the levers at your disposal to ensure that there is no meandering away from it tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS