**Write to your MP: Mutual recognition for the UK and EU’s organic food certification**

Dear

As an organic farmer in your constituency, and one of 3500 organic producers across the country, I am writing to share my deep concern about the viability of the organics sector in the UK once the transition period ends on 31st December. I hope that I can count on your support to raise my concerns with the Government.

(PLEASE AMPLIFY WITH A BIT ABOUT YOUR, YOUR PRODUCE, HOW MANY YOU EMPLOY, HOW LONG YOU’VE HAD ORGANIC STATUS)

Exports of UK organic food and drink to the EU are now worth approximately £225 million. This market is under threat unless equivalence for UK organic standards is secured as part of the UK-EU negotiations. Without that recognition British organic products will not legally be able to be sold as organic in the EU or Northern Ireland, due to its status as part of the EU’s regulatory regime. In short this means our organic products can no longer be sold as ‘organic’ in the EU and would subsequently lose their premium market value. This will have a decimating impact on my business and others across the country.

Trade with the EU is an important part of the supply chain for British organic farmers and growers, the sector fear the consequences of additional produce being trapped in the UK and the impact that would have to the domestic market and farm gate organic prices. The EU market alone has seen a doubling of per capita spending on organic food in the last decade. With the right deal in place, there remains very strong growth potential for organic trade between the UK and EU after the transition period ends.

With less than four months to go before the transition period ends Organic farmers and growers urgently need clarity to give their businesses as much time as possible to prepare for changes that will come into effect on 1 January 2021.

As my local MP, I am asking for your support in raising the organic status issue with Defra and the UK negotiators, and ask that they secure mutual recognition for the UK and EU’s organic regulations as a matter of urgency.

I am grateful for any support you can provide to seek assurances that this equivalence issue for UK organic standards is secured.

Yours Sincerely,