



Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business and Trade

6th August 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

## Re Animal Health and Welfare and the CPTPP

As a veterinary surgeon and a parliamentary candidate who is deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of animal health and welfare, I write to express my profound concerns about the recently agreed terms for the UK to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

One particular aspect of this agreement that has troubled me immensely is that many of the participating countries produce eggs under battery cage conditions. Battery cage systems have been outlawed in the UK since 2012.

The plan to phase out tariffs on eggs and egg products will lead to the importation of products that are produced under lower animal welfare standards than we currently permit in the UK. This will undercut British farmers and will put them at a competitive disadvantage. It will also mean lower animal welfare products being available in British shops.

**In the Conservative Party's 2019 election manifesto you promised that you would not lower animal welfare standards in post-Brexit trade deals.** Given that the CPTPP permits members to set their own levels of protection, I request your assurance that the UK's high standards will not be compromised. It is imperative that a robust set of core standards be developed before granting tariff-free access to our market. To achieve this, I advocate for active engagement with the veterinary profession. The British Veterinary Association have also raised concerns regarding this situation and I would implore you to engage with them.

Given my previous experience as the Chair of the British Veterinary Association Farm Assured Scheme Working group (which led to the [BVA #ChooseAssured](#) campaign to empower consumers to make high welfare choices), I can assure you that both the **British public and British farmers are immensely proud of our high animal welfare standards** and we should not be lowering them.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Danny Chambers BVSc MSc MRCVS  
Veterinary Surgeon