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

Dear

As a producer with an interest in the organic market in your constituency, and one of 3,500 organic producers across the country, I am writing to share my deep concern about the viability of the organics sector in the UK after the transition period ends on 31 December 2020. I hope that I can count on your support to raise my concerns with the UK Government.

(PLEASE AMPLIFY WITH A BIT ABOUT YOU, YOUR PRODUCE, THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF YOUR TRADE THAT IS AFFECTED, 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 with the EU. Without that recognition British organic producers will be shut out of trading with both the EU and Northern Ireland, due to its status as part of the EU’s regulatory regime. In short, it will be illegal to sell our organic products as ‘organic’ in the EU and they will lose their premium market value. This will be extremely damaging for my business and many others across the country.

Trade with the EU is an important part of the highly integrated supply chains of British organic producers. Our sector fears the consequences of additional produce being trapped in the UK and the impacts this would have to the domestic market and farmgate organic prices. We are also deeply concerned about the impacts this would have for jobs across our industry.

The EU market alone has seen a doubling of per capita spending on organic food in the last decade. With the right trade deal in place, there remains very strong growth potential for organic trade between the UK and EU after the transition period ends. However, with only three months remaining, we urgently need clarity from the Government to ensure our business can prepare for changes that will apply from 1 January 2021.

As my local MP, I am asking for your support in raising the issue of organic equivalence with Defra Ministers and the UK’s negotiators. Whether there is a trade deal or otherwise, it is essential to our business that the UK secures mutual recognition for the UK and EU’s organic regulations.

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

Yours Sincerely,