



Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves
Chancellor of the Exchequer
By Email

20 November 2024

Dear Rachel,

I am writing to highlight significant concerns raised by farmers in my constituency regarding the proposed changes to inheritance tax and their potential impact on family farming in the UK.

While I fully support the principle of ensuring fairness in the tax system, raising funds to invest in vital public services, and closing loopholes, it is critical that such policies are based on robust, transparent data. Currently, there is a stark disparity between the figures provided by the Treasury and those from the National Farmers' Union (NFU). This discrepancy raises genuine questions about why there are such divergent views regarding who will be affected and how.

To address these concerns, I urge you to meet with the NFU to begin a dialogue about these discrepancies and ensure their views are heard and considered.

Alongside this, an independent impact assessment is urgently needed to clarify how these changes will affect different groups, particularly nature-friendly family farms that are integral to our rural communities and food security. Without this clarity, it is impossible to fully understand whether the policy will achieve its aims without unintended consequences.

In addition, there is a pressing need for long-term government commitment to ensure that family farming can provide a sustainable and decent income. Many farmers are already operating on tight margins, and without a comprehensive strategy to address market challenges, such as supermarket power and fluctuating costs, the future of family farming is at risk. Supporting nature-friendly practices, ensuring fair returns for farmers, and fostering resilience in rural economies must be central to this commitment.

I hope you will work with Cabinet colleagues to address these issues with urgency. Farmers deserve clear, evidence-based policymaking that both addresses tax fairness and secures the future of this vital sector.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.