



Daniel Zeichner MP  
Minister of State (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)  
By Email

13 March 2025

Dear Daniel,

I write to express my profound concern over the abrupt cancellation of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). This decision has left thousands of farmers across the country reeling from a lack of support and clear guidance at a time when stability is crucial.

The sudden termination of the SFI—with zero notice, contrary to the promised six weeks—has plunged our farming communities into uncertainty. Many farmers were at the final stages of their application process when the programme was scrapped without any contingency measures. This has led to a possible cascade of distressing repercussions: farmers may now struggle to plan their operations and secure the future of environmentally sustainable practices that are vital for boosting UK food production and combating climate change.

Even before its cancellation, many farmers faced barriers to accessing the SFI, with issues around eligibility, payment structures, and administrative complexity. While reinstating the scheme is essential to prevent further disruption, it is also clear that urgent improvements are needed to ensure that the SFI delivers on its potential and is accessible and effective for all who need it.

In light of these challenges, I respectfully urge you to consider the following proposals:

1. Immediately reinstate the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) to provide urgent support for farmers left in limbo, while undertaking a comprehensive review to improve SFI's accessibility and effectiveness.
2. Provide a full and transparent explanation for the cancellation decision and commit to a clear, consultative process for any future changes to farming support schemes.
3. Ensure long-term policy stability that allows farmers to invest confidently in sustainable practices, reinforcing both food security and environmental protection and enhancement.

I believe that these steps are essential not only to restore confidence among the farming community but also to ensure that the UK's transition to sustainable, nature-friendly farming is built on a foundation of trust and robust support. The Government's current approach risks undermining both food security and environmental progress.



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

I trust that you will treat these recommendations with the urgency and seriousness they warrant. I look forward to your prompt response and a commitment to work collaboratively towards a more stable and sustainable future for UK agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Chowns'.

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.