

ELIZABETH TRUSS MP

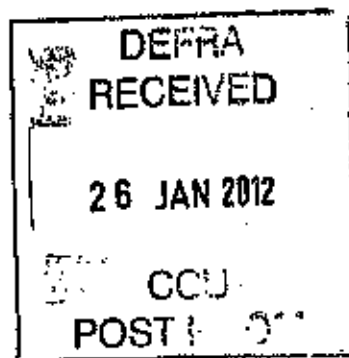
Constituency Office:
The Limes
32 Bridge Street
Thetford
Norfolk IP24 3AG
Tel: 01842 757 345



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Westminster Office:
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7151

Richard Benyon MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3RJ



Dear Richard,

23 January 2012

Last week I held a Farming Forum in my constituency at The Jolly Brewers, Shouldham Thorpe which was attended by farmers and other professionals involved in food production.

Several farmers raised concerns about the water supply in East Anglia, where intensive crops such as vegetables and salad are widely grown. Drought has affected many areas in recent months. The water supply needs to be addressed by the Government and the Environment Agency as a long-term planning priority if food production is to increase as projected. Without sufficient investment, there is a substantial risk of further shortages as housing growth puts pressure on the water supply. This would have a damaging effect on farming in East Anglia and knock-on effects along the supply chain.

I would be very grateful if we could arrange an urgent meeting to discuss future planning and investment in this area. My office can arrange for a delegation of farmers from South West Norfolk to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Truss MP