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From Rt Hon Jim Paice MP
Minister of State for Agriculture and Food

Thank you for your letter of 11 January to the Secretary of State enclosing a copy of the joint British Sugar and NFU Position paper on EU Sugar Reform. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I am well aware of the position our beet sugar industry has taken on sugar reform. Indeed, I very recently met British Sugar to discuss this position, whilst the Secretary of State met the NFU Sugar Board on a similar basis before Christmas. Both organisations were able to give us a full briefing on their position paper and the reasoning behind it.

Defra is currently seeking stakeholders' views on the whole package of CAP Reforms, and you can be assured that the views of British Sugar and the NFU have been noted and will be taken into account as the Government's own position on CAP Reform is developed.

RT HON JIM PAICE MP