

Mark Spencer MP
Minster of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

16 May 2023

Dear Mark Spencer MP,

Food Hub Fund Pilot

We are a group of organisations championing resilient and sustainable food systems.

As you know, the UK's food supply has experienced different pressures, including food shortages. Our research also found that farmers often receive less than 1% of the profit made in the supermarket chain.

Supporting a more diverse and local/regional supply chain would start to tackle some of these challenges. Therefore, **we are proposing that Defra pilots a Food Hub Fund** to help support 15 new food hubs across England.

A £5 million fund would help these new enterprises invest in market research, building supplier relations, and infrastructure and equipment.

This would support the UK Government's environmental and food security objectives, while driving innovation in the UK's food system and supporting the best of British.

We have enclosed a briefing setting this out in more detail. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

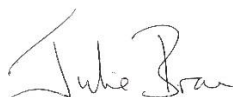
Yours sincerely,



Vicki Hird
Head of Farming
Sustain



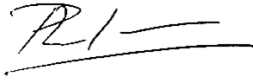
Martin Lines
UK Chair
Nature Friendly Farming Network



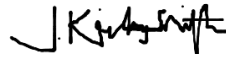
Julie Brown
Director
Growing Communities



Amit Dattani
Head of Networks and Partnerships
Soil Association



Peter Samsom
Resilient Local Food Project Worker
Landworkers' Alliance



Julia Kirkby-Smith
Project Lead
Better Food Traders



Patrick Holden
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Food Trust



Nick Weir
Head of Operations
Open Food Network



Josiah Meldrum
Co-Founder
Hodmedod's



Peter Russell
Chief Executive Officer
Ooooby



Michael Copleston
Director
RSPB England