

Helen Morgan MP
North Shropshire



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP

Secretary of State for Business Trade and President of the Board of Trade
Department for Business and Trade
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

By email only

15th December 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Cheese Letters and the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement

I am writing to you today with a request regarding the future of UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement regarding Cheese Letters.

British cheese is the top choice for Canadians when it comes to quality, representing a hugely important export market for British cheese producers. Currently, businesses are able to continue exporting cheeses under the Trade Continuity Agreement. In a matter of great concern to the industry, this arrangement is currently set to end in January.

It goes without saying that a lack of certainty in 2024 and 2025 poses a major issue, especially given the amount of time it takes to plan the production of cheese and put contracts in place.

The Cheese Letters are of enormous importance to the industry as they govern the playing field for exporters. Currently, trading arrangements mean that British exporters can compete for a large proportion of Canadian dairy quotas, and export speciality cheeses on scale to the Canadian market. Under new trading rules brought in by the CPTPP, British exporters would be competing in a much more difficult field, unable to access CPTPP dairy quotas until at least the end of 2024.

This means that British exporters would lose out on access to a large and important market almost overnight, costing the industry millions.

The only way that our cheese exporters could maintain access to the Canadian market for the foreseeable future is by extending the Cheese Letters to the end of 2025. Without this, the industry will take a major hit during an already difficult economic climate.

We are writing today to urge you to ensure that the industry is protected and that Cheese Letters are extended, as well as to outline measures being taken to support British cheese exporters. This is an important issue and we would be grateful for a reply promptly, given the time-sensitive nature of the trading arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Morgan".

Helen Morgan MP, North Shropshire

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Co-signed by Parliamentarians:

Selaine Saxby MP

Alistair Carmichael MP

Richard Foord MP

Wendy Chamberlain MP

Christine Jardine MP

Sarah Dyke MP

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Lord Cameron of Dillington