



Secretary of State Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Department of Health and Social Care
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Email: NFULondon@nfu.org.uk
Date: 16/07/2025

cc: Secretary of State Rt Hon Steve Reed MP

Dear Health Secretary,

We welcome the ambition set out in your Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England to raise the healthiest generation of children ever and end the obesity epidemic. As the leading growers of fruit and vegetables in the country, we work hard to put a healthy, nutritious 5-a-day on plates and in lunch boxes across the country.

We write to ask you to support the growth of more fruit and vegetables in the UK. Last year, only 17% of the fruit consumed in the UK was grown here and 53% of our vegetables. In 2023 alone we lost 26% of our fruit orchards and 141,000 football pitches worth of fields used to grow vegetables. These businesses have faced continued economic shocks, planning barriers and supply chain uncertainty, leading to a lack of business and investment confidence.

British growers want to do more to support your important work. Not only because the UK has world leading standards in food production, which are not always replicated by our imports, but also because by growing it locally, we can better connect people with their food. Our children are more disconnected from their food than ever before. It cannot be right that one in ten children [don't know where carrots come from](#). Fruit and vegetables should play a leading role in delivering the transformational change needed to end the obesity epidemic, and the new mandatory Healthy Start targets.

This year, vital funding from a previous EU scheme will sunset with no replacement, leaving English growers at a disadvantage while EU, Scottish and Welsh fruit and veg growers continue to receive investment. This match-funded support enables Producer Organisations to bring together growers to support better supply chain fairness, invest in productivity and resilience, and market our produce – all elements crucial to the success and growth of farming businesses. The NFU has long campaigned for access to similar funding for all horticulture businesses. Promises by successive governments to replace the scheme with an expanded offer have failed to materialise.

We would welcome your support for this endeavour to invest in and grow this vital sector. From apples and carrots to strawberries and broccoli, British growers produce some of the tastiest fruit and vegetables in the world. We look forward to working with you to deliver your 10 Year Health Plan.

Yours

Martin Emmett, Chair, NFU Horticulture & Potatoes board
John Walgate, CEO, British Growers Association
Nick Marston, Chair, British Berry Growers
Ali Capper, Chair, British Apples and Pears
Simon Conway, Chair, Tomato Growers Association



Scott Walker, CEO, GB Potatoes
Tim Elcombe, Chair, British Onions
Rodger Hobson, Chair, British Carrot Growers Association
David Simmons, Chair, Brassica Growers Association
Tim Casey, Chair, Asparagus Growers Association