

JERSEY  
FARMERS  
UNION



28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Deputy D Johnson  
Chairman, Brexit Review Panel  
Scrutiny Office  
Morier House  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD

Dear Chairman

Thank you for your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 giving the Jersey Farmers' Union the opportunity of commenting on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU.

We will confine our reply to the 5 questions set out in your letter.

**Q1: What do you think of the TECA and its impact on Goods and Trade?**

It is still a little early to evaluate.

Potatoes - No exports of Jersey Royals will take place until March. The vast majority will go to the UK so there should be no change. In the last couple of years we have been exporting into Europe and we know that we will have to meet new phytosanitary regulations to continue.

Daffodils - The main exporter of daffodils is expecting to try in the first week of February to export into France. He is receiving good help from people in the Island to complete all the necessary paperwork but until the first pallets arrive we don't know if everything is satisfactory.

Plug plants - Jersey has a large business in the Island supplying plug plants. As above the bureaucracy in importing from the continent has increased to the point that small shipments of product are not economic to send. Ordering well in advance is now necessary.

Dairy - Jersey Dairy does very little direct business to Europe. Indirectly it is seeing some effect where one of its products is a part ingredient of something else. For example, if Jersey cream was used with almonds from USA this becomes a problem. Even if no tariff was applicable the bureaucracy is greatly increased.

Live animals – There is the potential to build a trade in export of breeding stock to the EU which, historically, has been hampered by freight logistics with southern route vessels and veterinary clearance on the continental side. Any future development of this trade will

depend on the relevant port being a 'designated port of entry' for livestock and what certification will be required.

**Q2: Do you have any concerns about the enhanced checks for EU goods that will be required under the TECA?**

As is seen from all the answers above the concerns are obviously time and cost. In the report included with the questionnaire it is stated that Non-Tariff Measures could lead to a rise in cost of up to 12%. It is impossible to say at this early stage if Jersey producers will reach that figure but with our businesses being relatively small it always has a greater impact.

**Q3: In what ways do you think Jersey's farming industry would be impacted if Jersey terminated its involvement in the TECA within the 90 day 'cooling off' period?**

We are not sure of the answer to this question at present.

**Q4: Following approval of Jersey's inclusion in TECA, the UK will retain ultimate responsibility for the development, monitoring and enforcement of trade policy and practices, through so called "Trade Committees". What are your views on this?**

Reading the background, it would seem prudent for Jersey to have a representative on these committees. At the moment, we are witnessing Jersey being used as a pawn in a fishing dispute with France that is not of our making. I believe that the Island's voice should be heard directly in any further negotiations.

**Q5: The withdrawal from direct access to trade policy enforcement mechanisms as a result of inclusion in the TECA has been cited as a risk to Jersey's autonomy and ability to develop its international identity, which will be mitigated via agreements with the UK. Do you have any views on this?**

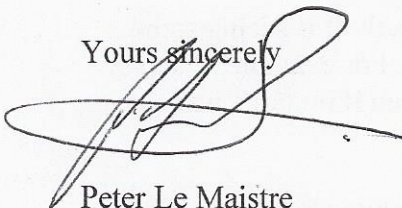
We believe that as in the answer to Q4, Jersey must decide what its best interests are and then fight to achieve them independently. This may mean aligning with the UK but equally discussions direct with the EU may be necessary. We hear that Senator Gorst had direct contact with the EU Fisheries Minister in order to resolve the fishing dispute and it is vital that Jersey is represented in any discussions to ensure that the Island's voice is heard. We believe that the Island must remain as independent as possible.

**Conclusion:**

We find that the 90 day cooling-off is very short. The 90 days takes us to the end of March and Jersey growers will not have exported many Jersey Royal potatoes by that date. Also, the export of live animals and daffodils is still being explored.

We hope that the answers above will help to guide you to formulate the best policy for Jersey agriculture and the Island as a whole.

Yours sincerely



Peter Le Maistre  
President