From the Chairman of the Committee

Andrew Opie
Director of Food and Sustainability
British Retail Consortium
2 London Bridge
London
SE1 9RA

28 October 2019

Dear Andrew,

Beef Prices

As you know on Wednesday 16 November, our Committee held an oral evidence session on the recent drop in beef prices with representatives from the National Farmers’ Union, National Beef Association, ABP UK and the British Meat Processors Association. The Committee was disappointed that you were unable to attend the oral evidence session, however we would like to give you the opportunity to provide us with a response on behalf of your members to some of the issues that were raised specifically about the role of retailers. A transcript of the session is enclosed and is available on the Committee’s website.

The Committee would therefore welcome your response to the following:

- Why was the retail price of beef not initially responsive to the fall in the wholesale price of cattle? [Question 4-22]
- What steps did retailers take to promote beef sales when there was a surplus of beef on the market? [Question 50]
- The role of retailers in maintaining high standards of food safety and animal welfare in the supply chain in the UK post Brexit? [Question 77].

We would be grateful if you could respond by Friday 13 December. The Committee will be publishing this letter and would expect to publish your reply.

Neil Parish
Chairman of the Committee

Cc Sarah Bradbury, Group Quality Director, Tesco