



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP
Secretary of State for Business and Trade
and President of the Board of Trade
Department for Business and Trade
King Charles Street Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

The Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: AS64455

24 April 2026

Re: Open Letter about Forest Risk Commodity Regulations

Dear Secretaries of State,

Everybody loves chocolate. We are writing to you to urge you to heed calls by chocolate producers and retailers to implement a robust forest risk commodities regulation that addresses the UK's impact on deforestation and associated human rights abuses.

The UK is lagging behind the EU. Regulating the use of forest risk commodities in the UK is good for business and good for growth.

The UK Cocoa Coalition and the NGO Forest Coalition are calling for the UK government to avoid unnecessary barriers to trade arising from differences between UK legislation and the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). We are calling on the government to ensure that the UK's regulation aligns as closely as possible with the EUDR.

The Environment Act 2021 was meant to put a stop to the import of commodities grown on illegally deforested land. Nearly five years on, little progress has been made to bring forward strong secondary legislation to enforce the Act's due diligence obligation for forest risk commodities. The UK Cocoa Coalition, whose members include UK retailers Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose, and chocolate

manufacturers Ferrero, The Hershey Company, Tony's Chocolonely and Barry Callebaut, is calling for the UK government to end the current uncertainty over the entry into force of the UK forest risk commodities regulation.

We want an end to deforestation and associated human rights abuses in cocoa and other commodity supply chains. Consumers are unwittingly linked to deforestation through everyday products. Polling shows that 70% of British citizens, irrespective of age or political affiliation, back the UK government taking action to stop the import of commodities tainted by deforestation overseas.

The UK's growth agenda will be harmed if global forest loss is not halted and reversed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Sobel', written in a cursive style.

Alex Sobel MP- Co-Chair of the Global Deforestation APPG
Pippa Heylings MP - Co-Chair of the Global Deforestation APPG
Lord Randall
Lord Goldsmith
Martin Rhodes MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Sarah Champion MP
Bambos Charalambous,MP
Patricia Ferguson MP
Claire Young MP
Dr Ellie Chowns MP
Baroness Sheehan MP
Baroness Boycott MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Carla Denyer MP
Adrian Ramsay MP
Sian Berry MP
Hannah Spencer MP