



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

**The Rt. Hon. Mark Spencer MP**  
**Minister of State for Food, Farming and Fisheries**

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Mr Jacob Jensen  
Minister for Food, Agriculture  
and Fisheries,  
Holbergsgade 6  
1057 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

19 October 2023

Dear Jacob,

Thank you for the helpful discussion on 19th September on several fisheries matters, including the future management of sandeel in English waters of the North Sea.

Based on our conversation, I am confident that we share the same long-term ambitions on supporting our fisheries sector whilst preserving and improving our marine ecosystems. I appreciated you setting out your concern around the UK's proposed measures on sandeel. I am confident that the measures we consulted on are fully in accordance with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and are based upon the best available scientific evidence. However, in the spirit of good cooperation and given the confirmation from ICES that they will respond to the UK-EU joint request by the end of November, I am content to wait until at least that time before making a final decision on this matter.

I hope this will go some way to alleviating your concerns, and will ensure that our teams remain in touch on this.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt. Hon. Mark Spencer MP**