



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

James Cartlidge MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2025 welcoming me to the role of Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

As you know, the Government believes its reforms to agricultural property relief and business property relief from 6 April 2026 get the balance right between supporting farms and businesses, fixing the public finances, and funding public services. For example, you will be aware that the recent report by the independent Centre for the Analysis of Taxation in August demonstrated that the Government's proposed reforms mean half of the estates across the UK expected to pay more inheritance tax in 2026-27 will only see an increase in their effective inheritance tax rate of less than 5 percentage points, and almost 90 per cent of affected estates are expected to have a liability of less than their non-farming assets. The report, which uses detailed HMRC data, demonstrates the reforms improve on the current position and are expected to largely meet the Government's objectives of raising revenue, reducing tax relief for the wealthiest estates, and supporting family farms.

I am aware of your earlier exchanges with my predecessor, including your letter dated 26 August 2025, requesting a meeting with farmers from your constituency to discuss their individual circumstances in person directly. As you note in your last letter to my predecessor, it is not possible or practical for Ministers to hold meetings with every individual or business on a particular subject, even if they do all kindly suggest meeting in London to help with competing demands on ministerial time. As a former minister at HM Treasury, you will be aware more than most of the huge demands on that time in the period before the Budget on 26 November.

I hope this response is helpful even if I cannot offer a meeting to your constituents at this time. Thank you again for taking the time to kindly congratulate me on my appointment to the role of Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and for making me aware of your constituents' kind offer of a meeting to share their views.

Yours sincerely,

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

DAN TOMLINSON MP
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY