



JO CHURCHILL MP
Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds



Mr Dave Lewis
Chief Executive of Tesco Plc
Tesco Head Office
Falcon Way
Shire Park
Hertfordshire
AL7 1TW

21st March 2017

Dear Mr Lewis

I write with regard to the recent decision taken by Tesco, to withdraw the sale of British grown Silver Spoon granulated sugar from stores.

British Sugar as you aware, is the sole British producer of sugar. Their processes cover four factories in the East of England, including one in the heart of my Bury St Edmunds constituency. By, supporting 9,500 jobs across East Anglia, including 700 local sugar farmers, British Sugar is not only an asset to our rural economy, but is symbolic of home grown produce.

Therefore, the decision to withdraw Silver Spoon from Tesco shelves is disappointing and removes from consumers the choice to buy and support home grown sugar. I would also point out that this decision is at odds with Tesco's objective of 'collaborating with our suppliers', making that partnership working appear somewhat of a token gesture.

Whilst I cannot argue with the business premise to deliver the best possible deal to customers, it is important for shoppers to see UK produce, especially where it is local, available to them on our supermarket shelves. I would therefore be interested to know how food miles and food security is costed into your decision making process when selecting goods.

Investing in the long term prospects of the UK sugar sector, British Sugar has a significant part to play in determining the landscape of our farming and agricultural sector. Therefore, your decision strikes me as somewhat short sighted and fails to ensure we provide the goods we require in a home grown and sustainable way; a matter I would not wish to be overlooked as we enter Brexit negotiations.



In light of Tesco's decision and taking into consideration your corporate social responsibility policy, which intends to support communities and work with local businesses, I would therefore appreciate an answer to the points that I have raised.

I look forward to receiving your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Churchill'.

Jo Churchill MP