



**PRESS RELEASE FROM UK2020 THINK THANK**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Farmers face uncertainty if we vote to remain**

Owen Paterson MP will this evening [Wednesday 27 April] warn farmers they face uncertainty if Britain votes to remain in the EU on June 23.

The former Environment Minister will say that farmers face a potentially significant drop in subsidies when the current Common Agriculture Policy settlement expires in 2021. With an unsustainable 40% of the EU budget currently spent on agriculture, there will be immense pressure to reduce the amount spent, including subsidies.

Speaking at the National Liberal Club alongside Labour's Kate Hoey for a debate organised by Farmers Weekly, the North Shropshire MP will argue that farmers would enjoy more security outside of the EU. He will point out that agriculture in Norway, Iceland and Switzerland receives more generous subsidies than farmers in the EU under the present CAP, and that whatever system Britain adopts outside of the 28, it will continue to support farming, as all governments do, and as Britain did before 1973.

It is voting to remain in the CAP that is the leap in the dark for British farming, he will say in front of over 230 attendees gathered in central London.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Event details:

**Date:** Wednesday, 27 April 2016

**Time:** 4.30pm

**Venue:** National Liberal Club, London, SW1A 2HE

**ALL MEDIA ARE INVITED. PLEASE RSVP TO [beatrice@mippr.co.uk](mailto:beatrice@mippr.co.uk)**

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For all media inquiries, contact Beatrice Timpson of Media Intelligence Partners at [beatrice@mippr.co.uk](mailto:beatrice@mippr.co.uk) and 07803 726 977.

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP has been the Member of Parliament for North Shropshire since 1997. Owen was Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2012 – 2014), Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2010 – 2012), Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2007 – 2010), Shadow Minister for Transport (2006 – 2007) and Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2003 – 2005). As a backbencher he sat on the Agriculture, European Scrutiny, and Welsh Affairs Select Committees.

He founded UK 2020 in 2014 in order to research and publish optimistic, outward-looking, electorally viable conservative policies as a vital contribution to the Conservative Party.

Since its inception, UK2020 has produced policies on the EU, energy, climate change, global food security, wildlife crime, enterprise and small business.

<http://www.uk2020.org.uk/>