Dear Chloe,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2022, noting your concerns on the approach to including Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) on the UK REACH Candidate List.

Our aspiration remains to rejoin the EU and therefore maintain alignment with the EU wherever possible. And of course, until we rejoin the EU, our primary objective is to ensure that the new UK regimes continue to protect human health and the environment. We recognise that further work is needed to explore improvements to the current regimes and we are fully committed to working with stakeholders on this.

The United Kingdom Government is working with the Devolved Administrations on UK REACH, and key decisions directed in the legislation require my consent. Whilst Defra have an ongoing programme of engagement and are supported by the Devolved Administrations, I am keen that my officials and I understand the views and concerns of stakeholders. As such, I recently met with Fidra, and would welcome future engagement to aid my understanding of major concerns. More immediately my officials host a regular Scottish Chemical Policy Network (SCPN) forum and would welcome direct meetings with stakeholders. Please contact Dan Merckel for the dates of future SCPN meetings.

You are aware that when UK REACH came into force, all substances of very high concern (SVHCs) that were on the EU REACH Candidate List for Authorisation were carried over onto the equivalent UK REACH Candidate List. In addition, the HSE is committed to screen substances that have been added to the EU REACH Candidate List since UK REACH came into force to consider and, if it is appropriate, to add them to the UK REACH Candidate List.
Defra, the Welsh and Scottish Governments agreed that the *interim* principles for addition to the Candidate List will be kept under review as UK REACH policy develops. Bearing this in mind, I would welcome that my officials have the opportunity to discuss the specific concerns raised in your letter.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Jo Churchill MP, Minister for Agri-Innovation and Climate Adaptation, and Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change in Wales.

Yours sincerely

MAIRI McALLAN