C R Down Farming Ltd
Hayes Barton
East Budleigh
Budleigh Salterton
Devon EX9 7BS

18th January 2019

To whom it may concern

Re. Gibson - Grain Silos at Sandbank Farm

I am writing to explain the importance of the grain silos that have been recently installed at Sandbank Farm.

Mr Gibson grows and finishes pigs on contract. He has been doing this for us for the last 9 months and before this he grew pigs for many years for another pig breeder.

It is our understanding that Mr Gibson's main source of income is from the finishing of these pigs and it is therefore incredibly important that he is able to do this efficiently to maintain his income, especially after being given notice only 9 months ago and being in the vulnerable position of having his livelihood threatened.

The pig rearing business has very low margins and it is crucially important for us as a breeder to also be as efficient as possible. To this end we insist (and it is a requirement in our agreement) that we have the ability to make the food for the pigs on site. This is to reduce the cost of having wheat, barley and soya etc. delivered to a feed mill only to have it reconstituted and redelivered to farm.

Mr Gibson now has his food made on farm with a mobile mill and mix lorry that comes every week, which reduces the cost of the feed significantly (and also our carbon footprint). Without the new bins to hold these raw materials, we would not be able to make this food for our pigs at a viable price and Mr Gibson would not have a contract rearing business.

Whilst we have only been working with Mr Gibson for a short time, he has already proved himself to be a very conscientious and diligent partner, and it would be a great shame if our agreement had to cease because he was not allowed to retain the grain silos.

If you would like to understand our position further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Chris Down
Managing Director
C R Down Farming Ltd

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