To

CRP Rural Development Division
DAFM
4 C Agriculture House
Kildare St. D 02 WK 12

I would appreciate your support on this issue.

Objective: I support viable income for farmers in achieving a viable income in creating conditions that ensure that the producer receives a fair share of the consumer price.

The position taken by the competition authority regarding the protest for better prices for beef farmers was totally unjust. Contrast this with allowing the meat industry to further amalgamate and strengthen the monopoly in the beef market.

Both the Minister and the Government have a duty to regulate so that fair play prevails.

I attended the DAFM meeting in Portlaoise where price was the first and only item discussed in the 3-hour meeting. This was because of the unjustified method used by the farmers' community. Radical action needs to be taken by the Minister.
Objectives 6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity etc.

3.10 There are 4 native breeds of cattle including Kerry, Dexter, Drouina and Irish Moile. Native bovine breeds need support in order to sustain viable herd numbers. The herdage on these breeds should be increased from 10 to 25 cows per herd in order to encourage sustainability. These breeds are suitable to thrive on marginal land and play a part in the maintenance of the landscape, especially in the tourist regions of the country.

Coastal islands should be encouraged to farm these native indigenous cattle and replace the Charolais etc. in one breed per island. The meat should be promoted especially on the islands to local native indigenous food. Native breeds are suitable for conservation grazing, especially in our National Parks. An arrangement with herd owners of NPWS should be facilitated around the country as well as other government lands.

The Irish Rare Breed Society needs to be encouraged and supported to be in a position to represent Irish native breeds. Sean Flannery