



FROM LORD KATZ MBE
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Dear Robert,

During oral questions on Monday 1st December, you asked for an update on the tests that the Government had announced it was undertaking in March this year, following the passing of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023, to investigate what the risk of mutations and other things might be with such plants.

Unfortunately, Defra is not aware of the tests you referred to in your question, but we of course welcome further engagement with you, given your expertise in this subject. If you were able to provide more detail, that would be extremely helpful; in the meantime, please rest assured that the Government's approach to precision breeding is informed by rigorous scientific advice. This advice is consistent across scientific sources and is supported by the Advisory Committee on the Releases to the Environment, the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, institutions such as the Royal Society, and the European Food Safety Authority.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also send a copy to those Peers who spoke to the question and place a copy in the House library.

Best wishes,

The Lord Katz MBE
Lord in Waiting (Government Whip)

Lord Winston
House of Lords