

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands
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Dear Edward,

INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (IMG EFRA) MEETING

This letter updates the Committee on the key points from the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meeting held on 13 September 2023.

The meeting was hosted by the Welsh Government with Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd acting as chair. Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform, and the Islands represented the Scottish Government.

The main items of discussion were the implementation of the Windsor Framework and Scottish Government's plans to ban the sale and possession of glue traps. Other items discussed included an update on the UK Government's plans for COP28 and a discussion on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place in November 2023. A read out of the meeting and summary of attendance is included in the attached communiqué that has been published on the Scottish Government website.

We hope this summary is helpful.

Yours sincerely



MAIRI GOUGEON

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Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG EFRA) Communiqué: 13 September 2023

The Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG EFRA) met on Wednesday 13 September 2023 by video conference.

The meeting was chaired by Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Welsh Government

The attending ministers were:

- From the UK Government: Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.; Lord Benyon, Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs; and James Davies MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales
- From the Scottish Government: Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform, and the Islands
- From the Welsh Government: Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change.

In the absence of Northern Ireland ministers, Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, attended on behalf of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The meeting opened with a discussion on preparations for the implementation of the Windsor Framework. Work has been completed at pace to ensure the UK is ready for implementation of the majority of the framework on 1 October 2023. Collaboration will continue in order to ensure the remainder is ready for 2024. Ministers discussed the importance of both business engagement and providing clarity on future labelling requirements.

Following this UK Government ministers outlined plans for COP28 and ministers agreed to consider priority areas for collaboration in the net zero space.

Next Scottish Government presented a paper on plans to ban the sale and possession of glue traps and its interaction with the UK Internal Market Act. It was noted that engagement between governments is ongoing, and it was agreed that further discussions would take place at the next IMG.

The final substantive item involved a discussion on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the importance of ensuring the devolved governments are involved in early discussions at the appropriate level for any EFRA-facing aspects of future FTAs and the need to ensure existing standards are not undermined by future deals. Assurances were given by DEFRA on engagement and that nothing in CPTPP would require the UK to lower its standards across the EFRA-space

Finally, there were a number of AOB items relating to dangerous dogs, water quality testing, the export of live animals and wet wipes containing plastic.