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The Scottish Parliament,  
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29 September

## **Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill**

I am writing to provide an update to the Committee regarding the Internal Market Act 2020 (“the IMA”) and the Scottish Government’s proposed ban on glue traps to be included in the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill (“the Bill”).

As you are aware, on 26 June 2023, I wrote to my counterpart in the UK Government, Trudy Harrison, Under Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, stating the Scottish Government’s intention to introduce provisions to ban the sale and possession of glue traps, by amendment, during Stage 2 or Stage 3 of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill.

Following that letter, my officials have undertaken further discussions with their counterparts in the UK Government and the other devolved administrations and have concluded that matters relating to wild animals, and therefore glue traps, do not currently fall under a Common Framework. This is only the second time that an exclusion has been sought in a policy area lying outside a common framework. While there is no agreed process for managing this, we hope that discussions can proceed in an evidence-based and proportionate manner.

My officials have circulated a policy paper to Ministers in the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on our assessment of the market impact of the proposed ban on the possession and sale of rodent glue traps in Scotland and the rest of the UK. It is our view that a sales ban would not carry a significant market impact, and a sales ban would be a proportionate means of ensuring that the policy can be as effective as possible.

Initial discussions on that paper took place at the inter-ministerial group for environment, food and rural affairs meeting on 11 September and it was agreed at that meeting to hold further discussions at the next inter-ministerial group meeting in November 2023, where the

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Scottish Government will seek to confirm that all parties have sufficient evidence for consideration of an exclusion and to agree next steps, including indicative timelines.

I will provide an update to the Committee on the outcome of these discussions and my plans to include further provisions to ban the sale and possession of glue traps, by amendment in due course.

I have sent a copy of this letter the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee for their information.

Yours sincerely



**GILLIAN MARTIN**

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