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24 January 2024

Dear Finlay,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2023, and the recommendations that the Committee has provided following its scrutiny of the following Common Frameworks:

- Agricultural Support
- Animal Health and Welfare
- Chemicals and Pesticides
- Plant Health
- Plant Varieties and Seeds
- Fisheries Management and Support
- Fertiliser Regulations
- Organic Production

As you will be aware, the UK Parliament, Senedd Cymru and Northern Ireland Assembly have also undertaken scrutiny of the frameworks. Therefore, I will write to you again with a direct reply to the Committee's recommendations once agreement by the four governments has been reached on the proposed changes to be made to the frameworks in response to all the recommendations received from UK legislatures.

In the meantime, I would like to draw your attention to the [Scottish Government letter of 21 December 2023](#) in response to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's recent report "How Devolution is Changing Post-EU", and in particular those comments that relate to the points raised in the report on the future role and direction of Common Frameworks.

Yours sincerely,



**MAIRI GOUGEON**

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