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Finlay Carson MSP  
Convener, Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

27 March 2024

Dear Finlay

## **THE PLANT HEALTH (IMPORT INSPECTION FEES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2024**

I am writing to provide the further details requested by the Committee on 20 March in its consideration of the above SSI in relation to the Scottish stakeholder responses to the Defra led consultation on proposals for introducing documentary and risk-based identity and physical checks on medium-risk plants and products from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The consultation was GB-wide and was led by Defra with agreement from Scottish and Welsh Government. It ran from 6 October to 15 December 2023. As part of the consultation Scottish Government provided an indicative cost of what the fees would be for imports into Scotland.

Scottish Government received 2 responses from Scottish horticultural businesses which were fed into Defra as part of the consultation. The first was from a container grown tree producing nursery and the second from a wholesale plant supplier. Both businesses trade in plants for planting which are in the high-risk category rather than medium risk, which was the focus of this consultation. Both indicated that they had no objections to the proposals.

The final response to the stakeholder consultation is posted on the UK Plant Health Portal.

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/latest-news/stakeholder-engagement-on-import-checks-and-fees-on-medium-risk-goods/>

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I hope that this additional information is helpful to the Committee, and I am, of course, happy to provide anything further the Committee might require.

Kind regards



**LORNA SLATER**

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