



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary
for Rural Affairs and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

By email only

26 September 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

EVIDENCE TO THE RAINE COMMITTEE, 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

Thank you again for giving evidence to the Committee at our meeting on 7 September on a range of issues relating to the rural affairs and islands remit.

As I said at the end of the meeting, we did not have time to ask all our questions and so I would be grateful if you could provide further information on the following policy areas—

Impact of EU exit on the RAI remit

1. What discussions has the Scottish Government had with the UK Government or the Competitions and Markets Authority to understand better the implications of the Subsidy Control Act on funding for agriculture and fisheries in Scotland?
2. What is the Scottish Government's view of the impact of free trade agreements on devolved policy areas and especially on Scotland's food-producing sectors?

Food and drink supply chain

3. What are the Scottish Government's reflections on the recommendations of the Food Security and Supply Taskforce and, more generally, what is the Scottish Government doing to ensure the resilience of Scotland's food producing sectors during the cost of living crisis?
4. What are the Scottish Government's plans and timetable for producing its national Good Food Nation Plan and for the establishment of the Scottish Food Commission.

Biodiversity

5. How do you expect sectors within the RAI remit will contribute to delivering the aims of the proposed biodiversity strategy?
6. How will the actions required from the agriculture and fisheries sectors in order to implement the proposed biodiversity strategy be funded?

Climate change

7. What progress has been made towards addressing the gap in projected emissions reductions from the farmer-led groups and in mapping out the policies and proposals which would achieve the necessary emissions reductions?
8. What are the Scottish Government's plans to increase climate resilience for food producers?

A response by Friday 21 October would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee