

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

11th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday, 17 November

Climate and nature emergencies evidence session 1

Background

1. At its meeting on 27 October, the Committee agreed to undertake a number of evidence sessions around the impact of the climate and nature emergencies on the Committee's remit over November and December 2021. This would coincide with the COP26 (climate change) and COP15 (biodiversity) international conferences being held this year.
2. The purpose of these sessions was to—
 - explore how these significant 'drivers of policy change' may impact on sectors in the Committee's remit and the rural (and potentially islands) economy generally; and
 - inform subsequent scrutiny which may benefit from having undertaken initial evidence-gathering on this topic; for example, in relation to the development of future land use policy, the blue economy, and upcoming environmental strategies which will engage the Committee's remit, such as the Biodiversity Strategy and the next Climate Change Plan.
3. The first of these sessions will consider the science behind the climate and nature emergencies, focusing on the drivers relating to the Committee's remit. The Committee will take evidence from two panels. The first will focus on the marine environment and the second will focus on the terrestrial environment.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks
November 2021**