

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

28th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday, 2 November

Common frameworks

Background

1. Following EU exit, the four UK administrations agreed to maintain UK-wide approaches, or ‘common frameworks’, in some policy areas that were previously governed by EU law and which intersect with areas of devolved competence. More [background information about common frameworks is available on the SPICe hub](#).
2. 26 frameworks were developed within the Scottish Parliament’s legislative competence; 23 based on retained EU law/secondary legislation and three underpinned by primary legislation. Following discussions between the four administrations, the frameworks have been “minimally operable” since the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. Following stakeholder engagement, most provisional common frameworks have since been published ahead of parliamentary scrutiny. It is intended that parliamentary scrutiny will be undertaken within committees.
3. There are nine provisional common frameworks which fall in the Committee’s remit. Eight have been published; one, relating to zootech, is still under discussion between the administrations. The eight under the Committee’s current consideration are—
 - Agricultural support – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Animal health and welfare – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Chemicals and pesticides – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Fertilisers – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Fisheries management and support – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Organic production – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#);
 - Plant health – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#); and
 - Plant varieties and seeds – [cover note](#) and [provisional framework](#).
4. The UK administrations have agreed to consider legislatures’ conclusions and recommendations following parliamentary scrutiny, before taking a final decision on each framework. Each administration will respond to its legislature and set out its view on committees’ conclusions and recommendations.
5. Different legislatures are at different stages of scrutiny. It is anticipated the Scottish Government (and other administrations) will respond to legislatures’

conclusions and recommendations when parliamentary scrutiny has been concluded across the four legislatures.

Committee consideration

6. To support the Committee's scrutiny, a call for views was held between 6 June and 29 July 2022. The Committee [received 14 responses](#). The Committee considered the responses at its meeting on 7 September and agreed to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.

For decision

7. Following the Cabinet Secretary's evidence at agenda item 2, members will be invited to consider the Committee's next steps at agenda item 4.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks
October 2022**