

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

7th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday, 8 March

Future agriculture policy: Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board

Background

1. The Scottish Government launched [a consultation on its proposals for future agriculture policy](#) on 29 August 2022. The consultation closed on 21 November 2022. These proposals and consultation are expected to inform the development of a new Agriculture Bill, expected to be introduced later in 2023. The proposals focus on the delivery of outcomes in the following areas—
 - Replacement of the Common Agricultural Policy;
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - Nature restoration;
 - High quality food production;
 - Wider rural development; and
 - Improving farm incomes and competitiveness.
2. On 10 February 2023, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands wrote to the Committee with [an update about the future support framework for agriculture](#) in Scotland. The update included [an agricultural reform route map](#) that sets out the timescales for the transition towards a future support framework and for the Scottish Government's interaction with the agricultural industry.

Pre-legislative scrutiny

3. The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee agreed to undertake pre-legislative scrutiny work on future agriculture policy ahead of the introduction of the new Agriculture Bill. The purpose of this pre-legislative scrutiny is to explore the wider policy context that a future agriculture policy will operate within and the outcomes it is intended to achieve.
4. The Committee agreed to hold an evidence session with members of the [Agricultural Implementation Oversight Board \(ARIOB\)](#). The ARIOB was established in 2021 to support the implementation of the Scottish Government's agriculture policy reform and take forward the recommendations from the farmer-led climate change groups. The ARIOB is made up of 19 members, together representing farmers, industry stakeholders and academics.
5. The Committee will hear evidence from the following members of the ARIOB—

- **Martin Kennedy**, farmer and NFUS President;
- **Tim Bailey** – Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Chief Executive;
- **Anne Rae MacDonald** – farmer;
- **Dr Vicki Nash** – RSPB trustee; and
- **Kate Rowell** – farmer and Quality Meat Scotland Chair.

6. This evidence session continues the Committee’s programme of pre-legislative scrutiny of future agriculture policy—

Committee meeting date	Evidence session
22 February 2023	Agriculture sector stakeholders
1 March 2023	Climate Change
8 March 2023	ARIOB
15 March 2023	Biodiversity

7. Further information about the Committee’s programme of pre-legislative scrutiny of future agriculture policy can be found on [the Committee’s webpage](#).

**Rural Affairs and Islands Committee clerks
March 2023**