

# Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

28th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday, 8 November

## Future agriculture policy: supermarkets and food supply chains

1. The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee agreed to undertake pre-legislative scrutiny of the Scottish Government's [proposals for future agriculture policy](#). The purpose of this pre-legislative scrutiny was to explore the wider policy context that a future agriculture policy will operate within and the outcomes it is intended to achieve for food producers, rural communities, and the environment.
2. The evidence gathered would also inform the Committee's stage 1 scrutiny of the [Agriculture and Rural Communities \(Scotland\) Bill](#), which was subsequently introduced on 28 September 2023.
3. As part of this evidence taking, the Committee agreed to hold an evidence session with major supermarkets in order to understand better how large retailers work with farmers and other local producers within the wider food production supply chain.
4. The Committee received a [written submissions from Aldi](#) in relation to this evidence session.
5. This evidence session continues the Committee's programme of pre-legislative scrutiny of future agriculture policy—

Committee meeting date	Evidence session
22 February 2023	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session on agriculture sector stakeholders, 22 February 2023</a>
1 March 2023	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session on Climate Change, 1 March 2023</a>
8 March 2023	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session with ARIOB, 8 March 2023</a>
15 March 2023	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session on biodiversity, 15 March 2023</a>

<b>22 March 2023</b>	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session with NFU Scotland, 22 March 2023</a>
<b>19 April 2023</b>	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session on ecological resilience, 19 April 2023</a>
<b>26 April 2023</b>	<a href="#">Official Report for evidence session on food production and supply chain resilience, 26 April 2023</a>
<b>7 June 2023</b>	Committee visit to an arable farm, Coldstream
<b>30-31 August 2023</b>	Committee visit to dairy farms, Kirkcudbrightshire

6. Further information about the Committee's programme of pre-legislative scrutiny of future agriculture policy, and its scrutiny of the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill, can be found on [the Committee's webpage](#).

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