



Daniel Paris
dan@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202200313170

23 August 2022

Dear Daniel Paris,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July regarding transparency of the agriculture reform process.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands met with Scottish Environment LINK for a quarterly meeting on 18 August 2022 where this topic was discussed.

As highlighted in the meeting, co-development and co-design with rural partners will be the foundational approach to the development of future support structures and delivery.

There is ongoing engagement with stakeholders around future policy development with a number of stakeholder groups. The Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board (ARIOB) was established in August 2021 to contribute to Scottish Government's work to implement policy reform. Minutes of the ARIOB are published online to ensure transparency. Scottish Environment LINK are represented here by Pete Ritchie and Vicki Swales is part of the Policy Development Group which supports the ARIOB.

The Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Stakeholder Group monitors and provides the Scottish Government with feedback on issues related to existing CAP support, and offers views on other areas of its work that affect agriculture, forestry and the environment. The ARD Stakeholder Group also provides the Scottish Government with advice and views on priorities for shaping agriculture, forestry and environment in the post-CAP era. As with the ARIOB, minutes of the ARD Stakeholder Group are published online. The next ARD Stakeholder Group meeting is 8 September 2022. Scottish Environment LINK are represented here by Pete Ritchie and Vicki Swales

Other stakeholder groups Scottish Environment LINK are involved in include the National Programme Assessment Committee (Agri-Environment Climate scheme) and the Rural Development Operational

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Committee. Scottish Environment LINK are represented in both groups by Vicki Swales. More broadly, Scottish Environment LINK members such as WWF, Soil Association, RSPB work with agri-climate and agri-environment policy teams.

Overall, Scottish Environment LINK provides a crucial voice in the agriculture reform process and - as highlighted during the recent meeting, the Cabinet Secretary wants all members of Scottish Environment to feel included. Further discussion out with these stakeholder groups is always welcome.

This summer the Scottish Government is launching a consultation as part of the Agriculture Bill process which seeks the views of farmers, land owners, environmental groups and wider civic society. We hope all members of Scottish Environment LINK take the time to engage with the process.

Yours sincerely

Kairn Macleod
ARE : Agriculture Policy Division

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020

