RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Wednesday 4 February 2015

Present:
Claudia Beamish
Graeme Dey (Deputy Convener)
Rob Gibson (Convener)
Angus MacDonald
Dave Thompson
Sarah Boyack
Alex Fergusson
Jim Hume
Michael Russell

The meeting opened at 9.37 am.

1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.

2. Dairy industry: The Committee took evidence from—

   Chris Brown, Sustainable Business Director, Asda;

   Ewan MacDonald-Russell, Scottish Affairs Adviser, and Andrew Loftus, Agriculture Manager, Morrisons;

   Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, and Frank Strang, Deputy Director, Food, Drink and Rural Communities Division, Scottish Government.

3. Public Bodies Consent: The Committee considered a Scottish Government memorandum relating to the Public Bodies (Abolition of the Advisory Committees on Pesticides) Order 2015 [draft]. The Committee agreed to recommend to Parliament that the draft motion as set out in the Public Bodies Act Consent Memorandum be approved.
4. **Disposal of local authority assets (in private):** The Committee considered the responses it has received from local authorities. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government on the responses.

5. **EU engagement 2014 and EU priorities for engagement 2015 (in private):** The Committee agreed its letter to the European and External Relations Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.

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