The Committee had no suggestions to offer in respect of the questions posed but asked me to observe that within their stage 1 report on the High Hedges (Scotland) Bill they make a recommendation that the Bill be reviewed in the following terms:

“The Committee recommends that the Bill include a mechanism for a review. Such a review should take place within a reasonable timeframe, no later than five years, after the commencement of the system. Establishing a defined review date to take account of experience at the time the provisions of the Bill comes into force will provide certainty for local authorities and members of the public as to the mechanism for improving and refining the system in Scotland. Such a review should examine the operation of the Bill in general and not be confined to any specific issues.

Such a review should include any additional issues identified by local authorities in the operation of the high hedges system which may not have been considered during the progress of the Bill through the Parliament. A review will also be an opportunity for the Government to decide whether any further legislative or regulatory provisions are required to address other issues surrounding nuisance vegetation etc.

The results of the review, and any actions the Government may propose to take as a result of its findings, should be published and laid before the Parliament. This would enable the relevant committee to conduct informed post-legislative scrutiny of the legislation.”