



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

25th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Tuesday 3 October 2017

Present:

Claudia Beamish	Donald Cameron
Finlay Carson	Graeme Dey (Convener)
Kate Forbes	Emma Harper
Angus MacDonald	Mark Ruskell
John Scott (Deputy Convener)	David Stewart

Apologies were received from Richard Lyle.

The meeting opened at 10.03 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private.
2. **Scottish Land Commission:** The Committee took evidence from—

Andrew Thin, Chair, Dr Sally Reynolds, Commissioner, and Hamish Trench, Chief Executive, Scottish Land Commission.

John Scott declared an interest as a farmer and a member of the National Farmers Union of Scotland.

Donald Cameron declared an interest as an owner of a land holding in the Highlands.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/281);

Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/282).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instrument and also agreed to write to the Scottish Government regarding the issues raised by the Delegated Powers and Legislative Reform Committee; and to question Scottish Water on its water monitoring process at a future meeting.

4. **Petition PE01615:** The Committee considered correspondence from the Scottish Government in relation to a petition by Logan Steele, on behalf of Scottish Raptor Study Group, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to implement urgent action to introduce a state regulated system of licensing of game bird hunting. The Committee agreed to keep the petition open and write to the Scottish Government seeking further details on the work of its review group on grouse moor management..
5. **Scottish Land Commission (in private):** The Committee considered evidence heard earlier in the meeting. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on whether the Scottish Land Commission will be added to the list of public bodies who must report annually on their compliance with climate change duties. It also agreed to write to the Scottish Land Commission seeking further details on issues raised during the session.
6. **Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (in private):** The Committee considered whether it wished to take any actions in relation to the Statement, following its recent publication and agreed to review this at a future meeting.
7. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2018-19:** The Committee agreed its approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2018-19. The Committee agreed to:

write to various stakeholders seeking detail ahead of the draft Budget 2018-19;
write to the Convener of the Education and Skills Committee updating it on the Committee's approach;
to Issue a call for evidence; and
to invite Marine Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) to give evidence at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.57 am.

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