Present:

Peter Chapman  
Christine Grahame (Committee Substitute)  
Jamie Greene  
John Mason  
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)  
Stewart Stevenson

John Finnie  
Rhoda Grant  
Richard Lyle  
Edward Mountain (Convener)  
Mike Rumbles

Apologies were received from Fulton MacGregor.

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Update on Forth Replacement Crossing and other major transport infrastructure projects:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Alisdair Graham, Head of Planning and Design, David Climie, Project Director, Forth Replacement Crossing Team, and Lawrence Shackman, Project Manager, Forth Replacement Crossing Team, Transport Scotland, Scottish Government;

   Michael Martin, Project Director, Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors.

   Peter Chapman declared an interest as a farmer.

2. **Common Agricultural Policy Payments:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Eddie Turnbull, Head of Agriculture and Rural Communities Information Systems, Annabel Turpie, Chief Operating Officer, Rural Payments
Operation, and Andrew Watson, Deputy Director for Agricultural Policy Implementation, Scottish Government.

Edward Mountain declared an interest as a farmer.

Peter Chapman declared an interest as a farmer.

Stewart Stevenson declared an interest as an owner of a small agricultural holding.

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

   The Marketing of Fruit Plant and Propagating Material (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/177)

   and agreed not to make any recommendations in relation to the instrument.

4. **Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2.

   The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3 and 4.

   Amendment 7 was agreed to (by division: For 6, Against 5, Abstentions 0).

   Amendment 5 was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn.

   Amendment 6 was not moved.

   The following provisions were agreed to without amendment: sections 1, 4 and 6.

   The following provisions were agreed to as amended: sections 2, 3, and 5 and the long title.

   The Committee completed Stage 2 consideration of the Bill.

The meeting closed at 11.58 am.

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5211
Email: steve.farrell@parliament.scot