

# Scottish Government submission of 16 June 2023

## PE1945/D: Ban the extraction and use of peat for horticulture and all growing media by 2023

Scottish Government response to the request for information made by the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in their letter dated 4 May 2023.

### ***A summary of the responses to the current consultation after it has concluded.***

The consultation closed on 12th May 2023 with 558 responses, 484 of which have been published ([Ending the sale of peat in Scotland - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)). The consultation responses are now being analysed, after which a summary of responses will be available.

### ***An update on when the delivery plan and timetable for phasing out horticultural peat will be developed and produced, in light of the responses to the consultation.***

Following closure of the consultation on 12th May 2023, results are currently being analysed by independent consultants. Timescales for banning the sale of peat will be informed by the final consultation results, along with stakeholder engagement activities and impact assessments. It is likely that a delivery plan and timetable will be produced towards the end of 2023.

### ***Information on whether the Government supports a legal ban on the import, sale and use of peat for horticulture and the commercial extraction of peat for burning, with an exemption for crofters' traditional and cultural use.***

The purpose of the consultation was to develop policy and timescales around ending the sale of peat. As such, unless it is offered for sale, the cutting and use of peat is not within the scope of this consultation.

We are mindful of the needs of crofters and islanders and the responses of those who rely on peat, in addition to our impact assessments

(including an Island Communities Impact Assessment, an Equality Impact Assessment and a Scotland-focussed Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment) will help us determine whether and how they might be affected by ending the sale of peat.

Outcomes of the consultation, stakeholder engagement and impact assessments will form robust evidence that will guide Scottish Ministers as to the scope of any sales ban.