

Scottish Government submission of 11 March 2024

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

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the above petition and for informing us that the official report of the committee meeting was published on Wednesday 14 February. I have provided responses to your most recent enquiries below, which I hope you will find useful.

An update on when the delivery plan and timetable for phasing out the sale of horticultural peat will be published.

Our consultation on “Ending the Sale of Peat in Scotland” closed on 12th May 2023 with 558 responses, 483 of which have been published. A [consultation analysis](#) was published on 21 December 2023 and we are now reviewing findings, engaging with stakeholders and considering impact assessments ahead of offering advice to Ministers on the scope, pace of transition and any recommended exemptions. We hope to legislate for a ban on the sale of peat during this parliamentary term.

Confirmation of whether the Government intends to look beyond the sale of peat and consider banning the extraction of peat, with an exemption for crofters’ traditional and cultural use.

There are no current plans to ban the extraction of peat. Focussing on the sale of peat ensures that imports of peat, which constitute over 60% of the peat used in UK horticulture, are included so that peatlands in Scotland, and elsewhere in the world, are afforded similar protection from use in Scottish horticulture. We are mindful of the needs of crofters and islanders who have relied on peat for fuel for generations and we have been clear that any sales ban will not affect crofters cutting peat for their own use as a fuel.

Nature Division