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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

By email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

09 April 2024

Dear Finlay,

Following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, I am writing to provide the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee with a breakdown of the revised responsibilities across the Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (RALRI) portfolio, as agreed with the First Minister.

The table at Annex A sets out the responsibilities which I lead on as well as those within my portfolio which are delegated to the new Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, Jim Fairlie MSP (noting that the Minister has additional responsibilities in the Transport Ministerial portfolio).

Matters relating to land reform, natural resources and peatland, Scottish Land Commission; Crown Estate Scotland, and Royal Botanic Garden continue to fall under the NZET Committee remit while sitting within my portfolio.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Annex A – Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands Ministerial portfolio responsibilities

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands	Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Mairi Gougeon MSP	Jim Fairlie MSP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross government co-ordination on islands • Rural and Islands Youth Parliament • Rural and Islands Parliament (jointly with the Deputy First Minister) • Rural Delivery Plan (jointly with the Deputy First Minister) • land reform and land use • agriculture reform and Agriculture & Rural Communities Bill • fisheries • aquaculture • marine operations, science and compliance • forestry and woodlands, including Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry • food and drink • Scottish Land Commission • Crown Estate Scotland • Royal Botanic Garden 	<p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture • animal health and welfare • wildlife management and crime • natural resources and peatland • crofting • rural portfolio impacts of Brexit and Retained EU Law Act • allotments and community food growing • wider set of islands-related responsibilities, including carbon neutral islands

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