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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener of the Rural Affairs
and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

14 May 2024

Dear Finlay,

I am writing to let the Committee know that we will not be progressing work on the Scottish Veterinary Service (SVS).

The scoping work that we have conducted supports the case for the creation of a Scottish Service that would deliver quality improvements and would be financially sustainable. However, the current financial climate and significant budget constraints mean that we are unable to progress with plans for the SVS at this time, given the significant costs to create the new service.

Whilst this is unfortunate, I am sure you will appreciate the many demands currently placed upon our resources. I remain committed to the highest standards of animal health and welfare to Scotland as well as more highly trained veterinary staff. The Scottish Government, with FSS, will now concentrate on working with APHA and the Local Authorities to ensure that Scotland has the best possible animal health and welfare services.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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