



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon  
Cabinet Secretary for  
Rural Affairs, Land Reform and  
Islands

**Rural Affairs and Islands Committee**  
c/o Clerk to the Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[rural.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rural.committee@parliament.scot)

27 March 2024

By email only

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**The Sandeel (Prohibition of Fishing) (Scotland) Order 2024**

The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee considered the Sandeel (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 2024 at its meeting on [28 February 2024](#).

From the BRIA accompanying the instrument, the Committee understands that sandeel is a jointly-managed stock between the UK and the EU and that Denmark is the largest shareholder of the EU sandeel quota, holding 96%.

The Scottish Government's analysis of proposals to close fishing for sandeel in all Scottish waters cites concerns from Danish and EU-based respondents, who suggest EU fleets would be unfairly affected by the prohibition and that it may have implications for compliance with certain Articles of the TCA.

Given these concerns, the Committee would appreciate further information regarding what discussions were held with the Danish Government about the prohibition and whether there would be any implications for international fisheries negotiations.

The Committee would appreciate a response by Wednesday 24 April 2024.

Yours sincerely,

**Finlay Carson MSP**  
Convener, Rural Affairs and Islands Committee