



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

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

**Monday 16 June 2025**

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### **Animal Welfare (Import of Cats, Dogs and Ferrets) Bill legislative consent memorandum**

I am writing to you regarding the above LCM which was lodged on 3 June. The clerks have been informed that the Scottish Government would like to schedule the motion of consent next week.

As I'm sure you are aware, the Committee is currently considering four bills at different points of stage 1 and it has been very challenging to find time on our agendas at such short notice to take evidence from you on the LCM. It's regrettable that, when you attended our committee meeting last week, you were unable to stay on to discuss this item with us.

It would also have been helpful if Scottish Government officials had been able to contact the clerks at the earliest stage to share information about the LCM. I note the Welsh Government lodged its LCM on 21 May, giving the Senedd – assuming it is working to the same timetable – two more weeks, double the time the Scottish Government has given the Scottish Parliament, to consider the LCM.

I will raise this with the Committee on Wednesday but, in advance, it would be helpful if you could provide the following information—

Whether the Bill's sponsor discussed with the Scottish Government, in advance of introducing the Bill, whether it would apply to Scotland.

The reasons for the expedited timetable for consideration in the Scottish Parliament.

Given the Scottish Government's support for the policy objective of the Bill, the reasons why the Scottish Government has decided against introducing primary legislation itself. Alternatively, the reasons why the Scottish Government consents to sharing these delegated powers with the Secretary of State when the Bill could, instead, delegate these powers to Scottish Ministers only in relation to Scotland in order for parallel regulations to be laid in the Scottish Parliament. Either of these

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Contact: Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email [rural.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rural.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

approaches would avoid the need to delegate more of the Scottish Parliament's powers to the UK Government and allow full scrutiny of the proposals by MSPs.

It is not clear from the LCM whether the Scottish Parliament would be notified when UK Ministers exercise powers under this proposed legislation so it would be helpful if you could confirm whether the [SI protocol](#) would apply for any UK SIs made under powers conferred by this Bill.

For context, it would also be helpful if you could set out what other powers in devolved competence in this policy area have been delegated to either UK Ministers or to Scottish Ministers' executive competence?

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information by Tuesday 17 June in order for the Committee to discuss this further on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Finlay Carson MSP**  
**Convener**