

Head Office
Stanborough House
Great North Road
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL8 7TA
info@bfawu.org
Tel: 01707 260150
23.03.2026
{Delivered by Email}

Dear Rural Affairs Committee

I am writing to you feeling very disappointed that your committee has not responded to the repeated concerns we have raised with you about worker welfare in the salmon industry.

We shared with your committee our 'On the Line. Worker Treatment and Conditions at Mowi' on June 26th 2025, our analysis of the regularity and severity of accidents across the salmon industry on January 6th this year and made a submission to the committee, on February 19th 2026, outlining our broad concerns. Including raising with you our worries about bioaerosols in the salmon industry and their links with respiratory health problems amongst the workforce in the salmon industry.

Yet, despite raising these concerns the committee failed to raise any of them with the Minister when she and Scottish government officials appeared before the committee last week.

This represents a fundamental failure on your part to treat seriously the health and safety of workers in the salmon industry.

We are of course very sympathetic to the concerns raised around fish mortality, fish welfare, sea lice etc and believe that much needs to be done to make improvements and ensure that this industry going forward is sustainable and fulfilling its regulatory requirements. Only, in doing so can workers feel confident that their jobs in the salmon industry will exist in the long term.

However, we have raised real concerns about the regularity, severity and concentration of accidents in the salmon industry. We also raised with you the very worrying issue of bioaerosols and their links to respiratory problems and other health issues amongst workers.

These important issues surely merit some consideration and acknowledgement by your committee or do you intend to simply ignore them?

We want to place on record our profound disappointment that the committee has not challenged the salmon industry or the Scottish government on these issues and the government's failure to recognise them, let alone raise them with the industry.

Our disappointment is compounded by the fact that there is little said by any elected representative, albeit with some honorable exceptions, to the fact that the salmon industry is almost wholly non-unionised, with some companies

rejecting offers to work with trade unions, despite the fact that unionised workplaces are always safer and healthier workplaces.

Our union as always wants to work with MSPs, MPs, the Scottish and UK governments and the salmon industry to help improve the health and safety of workers.

We hope that as this Scottish Parliament session ends that the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee resolves to take into account worker welfare in the next session after May this year.

Yours sincerely,



**Sarah Woolley {She/Her} General Secretary
Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union
Mobile: 07739326017
Web: <http://www.BFAWU.org>
Email: Sarah.Woolley@bfawu.org**