



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for
Rural Affairs and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

By email only

14 November 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

EVIDENCE TO THE RAINE COMMITTEE, 2 NOVEMBER 2022

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee at our meeting on 2 November on UK common frameworks. [The Official Report from the meeting can be accessed here.](#)

In relation to several members' questions, there were a number of points on which you offered to provide the Committee with additional written clarification. To that end, I would be grateful if you could—

- Please set out specific examples of areas where the common frameworks have or will create opportunities for closer collaboration with regard to regulation and decision-making between the four UK administrations, in comparison to the situation prior to EU-exit;
- In relation to the Animal Health and Welfare framework, please clarify the extent to which the Scottish Government has the scope for policy divergence. Please also include information with regard to the Scottish Government's response to the ongoing outbreak of avian flu;
- Please provide information about the potential implications posed by the Subsidy Control Act 2022 to the fisheries management and support framework;
- Regarding the return of powers to the UK following EU-exit, please set out the powers previously related to reserved matters that have been conferred to Scotland within the Rural Affairs and Islands remit;

- In relation to the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, please clarify how the Scottish Government's commitment to maintain alignment with EU regulations is accommodated in the operation of the common frameworks;
- Please advise whether the Scottish Government anticipates it may want to apply for any exclusions to the UK Internal Market Act 2020 in relation to the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill;
- Please provide more detail on the implications of EU-exit for the Scottish Government's access to scientific advice; and

The Committee would appreciate a response by Wednesday 30 November.

Yours sincerely,



Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee