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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Natural Environment Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

6 June 2022

Dear Finlay,

I am writing to inform the Committee of the outcome of the Scottish Government's considerations regarding the establishment of a body to provide oversight of the implementation of the good food nation plans.

The Scottish Government committed as part of the Bute House Agreement with the Scottish Green Party, to consider whether or not to establish an oversight body as part of this Bill. We reiterated this commitment as part of both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 proceedings.

It was important to take the time to consider all viewpoints relating to oversight and so since Stage 2, I have engaged with members of the RAINE Committee, and other interested Members of the Scottish Parliament, from across all parties, to discuss the available options for oversight of the Bill.

As a result of these discussions, and taking account of representations from stakeholders, I have decided that the most appropriate way forward is to support amendments to the Bill at Stage 3 which would establish a new Food Commission to provide that oversight and to help us to continue on the path to being a Good Food Nation.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

