



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rachael Hamilton MSP
Member for Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire

1st July 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform you of my intention to bring forward a Member's Bill to address the growing problem of rural crime and equipment theft in Scotland, and to advise that I will be submitting a Statement of Reasons in support of the proposal shortly.

Rural crime continues to have a serious impact on individuals, families and businesses across Scotland.

NFU Mutual estimates the cost of rural crime in Scotland at over £8 million since 2021, and their most recent annual report highlighted a 14% increase in the cost of rural crime in Scotland, compared to an 8% decrease in England and Wales.

The provisions of the Equipment Theft (Prevention) Act 2023, which could have provided important safeguards against rural crime, were not extended to Scotland, due in part to a missed Legislative Consent Memorandum, and subsequent attempts to align with the UK legislation during Session 6 were unsuccessful.

I therefore believe that new primary legislation is required to ensure Scotland has an effective and comprehensive framework to prevent equipment theft.

My proposed Bill would introduce stronger security and traceability requirements for relevant machinery and equipment, with the objective of deterring theft, disrupting illegal markets, and improving the ability of law enforcement to identify, trace and recover stolen goods.

I intend to bring this Bill forward after the Summer Recess and will submit a Statement of Reasons in support of the proposal in due course. I would, of course, welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposal with you and the Committee ahead of that.

Best wishes,

Rachael Hamilton MSP
Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire

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