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Convener
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

3 September 2026

Dear Mark

**PUBLICATION OF NEW WELFARE GUIDANCE FOR EQUIDS AND LAYING OF A
REVOCATION NOTICE TO REVOKE THE 2009 CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE
WELFARE OF EQUIDAE**

I am writing to inform the Committee that the Scottish Government published new welfare guidance for equids on the Scottish Government's website on 25 August. This new guidance was developed in close partnership with the equine sector and replaces the Welfare of Equidae Code of Practice published in April 2009 ("the 2009 Code").

As a result of publication of the guidance, the Scottish Government laid a notice to revoke the 2009 Code before the Scottish Parliament on 2 September. The notice requires approval by resolution of the Parliament to take effect.

In bringing this to the attention of Committee, I would also take the opportunity to apologise for the fact that this notification was not issued earlier. I had intended for a letter to be sent to advise the Committee of the Government's intentions to publish the guidance and to revoke the 2009 Code by notice in early August. However, due to an administrative oversight, the letter was not issued. I fully recognise the need to ensure that the Committee is notified of such matters in an appropriate and timely manner and regret that this did not happen on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

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