



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs Committee

Jim Fairlie
Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands
Scottish Government

4 September 2026

Dear Minister,

Rural Support Plan

Thank you for [your letter, sent on 1 September](#), in advance of the Committee's first meeting with stakeholders on the Rural Support Plan on 2 September.

Your letter refers to the establishment of a Land, Agriculture and Nature Delivery (LAND) Group, due to meet for the first time on 1 October this year. It also refers to the continuation of the Agriculture Policy Development Group, which the Committee understands from witnesses in attendance at our 2 September meeting has been refreshed to include new members.

The Committee also understands from witnesses that the Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board (ARIOB) has been disbanded.

Given the significant changes to the advice and governance groups supporting the Scottish Government's rural support policy, the Committee would welcome an update on:

- What advisory groups are currently in existence, their memberships, how often they meet, and their purpose.
- How the different advisory groups relate to each other, and how you see their roles complimenting one another.
- Any other short-term changes you plan to make to the structure of the advice and governance groups supporting the Scottish Government with rural support.

As you may well be aware, the Committee also discussed several other challenges with delivering the objectives set out in the Rural Support Plan with witnesses, which have also been reflected in responses to our Call for Views. While we look forward to discussing these with you at Committee shortly, we would also welcome any updates you can provide on any developments to rural support policy since the publication of the Rural Support Plan in March.

Contact: Rural Affairs Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email rural.committee@parliament.scot

We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The Committee look forward to discussing the Rural Support Plan. I would welcome a response to this letter by 10 September.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ruskell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Contact: Rural Affairs Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.
Email rural.committee@parliament.scot
We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.