Rural Support Plan

Dear Members,

I watched the recording of the committee meeting on Wednesday 7 October 2026 meeting .

Around 09.38 the Cabinet Secretary talked about the AECS budget. She said correctly that it is part of the Tier 3 budget and that this budget is currently £106m rising to £151m in 2030. However, it was not entirely clear to me that she was talking about the Tier 3 budget and not the AECS budget (which is currently £25.6m with no indication of what it will be in 2030), and it seemed a couple of minutes later as if the convener assumed that the Cabinet Secretary was talking about the AECS budget.

I'm raising this to make sure that the Committee is aware which budget was being referred to, and that the Official Report of the meeting makes that clear.

Best wishes

Pete Ritchie
Director
Nourish Scotland