Ar faidhle/Our ref: SI/NL2014/RACCEC
20 January 2014

Dear Rob,

I am writing to advise the Committee that I have agreed to changes to the UK’s National List legislation to accommodate the botanical name change for tomato, in European legislation. A single UK Statutory Instrument, “The Seeds (Nomenclature Changes) Regulations 2014” will be laid in the Westminster Parliament in February 2014, and will come into effect 21 days later.

Plants and seeds being agriculture by nature, fall within devolved competence, however, the UK operates a single National List which is regulated by a UK Instrument “The Seeds (National List of Varieties) Regulations 2001”. There are clear benefits for Scotland in participating in common National Listing tests and producing a single list of varieties approved for cultivation in the UK.

The 2001 UK Regulations now need to be amended to implement changes in European Commission Directive 2013/45/EU.

This UK Regulation transposes these changes into UK law. The changes are technical in nature and are non-controversial.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD