



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs

c/o Clerks to the Committees  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

***By email only***

(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

Tel: 0131 348 5240

[ecclr.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecclr.committee@parliament.scot)

[rec.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rec.committee@parliament.scot)

22 February 2018

Dear Michael,

**Invitation to appear at the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee of the Scottish Parliament**

We are writing with regard to invitations we have sent, on behalf of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) and Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committees of the Scottish Parliament, to give evidence on the environmental implications for Scotland of the UK's decision to leave the EU.

We were pleased to receive your response to these invitations on 15 November 2017 indicating your acceptance. The Committee clerks and your officials have been liaising on this and it was understood the Committees would be informed of your next visit to Scotland with a view to arranging your appearances.

Your office has indicated that you wish to come to give evidence to the Committees on 7 or 20 June 2018. Both Committees are of the view that, while we welcome your suggestion, these dates are much later than we had anticipated and we would prefer to meet you on an earlier date.

The original invitation from the ECCLR Committee was sent to you in June 2017 and to your predecessor in September and December 2016. The original invitation from the REC Committee was sent to you in August 2017 and to your predecessor in February and March 2017. We appreciate you face significant demands on your time but we consider the issue of the implications of Brexit for Scotland's environment and rural economy to be of vital importance. The committees of the Scottish Parliament must be in a

position to consider these issues fully, including understanding the views of the UK Government.

We are sure you will share our view on the importance of an early meeting and propose the morning of the following dates:

- Thursday 29 March 2018
- Thursday 19 April 2018
- Thursday 26 April 2018

This would not preclude a further meeting on 7 June 2018 depending on how matters progress.

The clerks will be in touch with your officials to confirm the arrangements for this meeting.

We have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Rt Hon David Mundell MP.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Dey MSP  
Convener  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Mountain', with a flourish at the end.

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee