Dear Graeme,

Committee work on the environmental implications of the decision to leave the European Union

Thank you for your letter of 12 March 2018 in which you set out the work the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee has done on the environmental implications for Scotland of the decision to leave the European Union.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you about this Committee’s current and planned work on the same issue.

The Committee has agreed to carry out the following inquiries before the Assembly starts its summer recess:

- Environmental Governance – *the Committee will be considering environmental governance and principles and the need for a domestic environmental protection body.*
- Proposals for UK frameworks – *the Committee will undertake work on the common UK frameworks which may need to be established for devolved matters that are currently governed by EU law.*

Fisheries – the Committee will consider the future arrangements for fisheries in Wales, to inform our legislative scrutiny of the proposed UK Fisheries Bill.

We have also responded to Defra’s consultation on future agricultural policy and legislation – “Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit”.

In addition, we will continue to build relationships with counterpart Committees in other legislatures, to share information and good practice. We will be meeting the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, the EU Energy and Environment Sub–Committee, the Environmental Audit Committee and the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 2 May 2018.

I am grateful to you for updating us on your work and we will endeavour to maintain dialogue on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee