Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Minutes

2nd Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 16 January 2018

Present:

Claudia Beamish
Finlay Carson
Kate Forbes
Angus MacDonald
Mark Ruskell
Stewart Stevenson

Donald Cameron
Graeme Dey (Convener)
Richard Lyle
Alex Rowley
John Scott (Deputy Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.43 am.

1. Declaration of interests: Alex Rowley was invited to declare any relevant interests. He indicated that he had no interests to declare.

2. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.


   Laura Buchan, Head of the Health and Safety Division, and Sara Shaw, Head of Wildlife and Environmental Crime Unit, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;

   Sean Scott, Detective Chief Superintendent, and Sergeant Andrew Mavin, Scottish Wildlife Crime Coordinator, Police Scotland.

John Scott and Donald Cameron declared interests as farmers and land owners.
Finlay Carson declared an interest as a Leisler’s bat species champion.
4. Scottish Government’s Wildlife Crime In Scotland - Annual Report 2016 (in private): The Committee considered evidence heard earlier in the meeting and agreed to keep the issues raised under review.

5. Work programme (in private): Work programme (in private): The Committee considered its work programme and agreed—

- a draft response to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities on the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill;
- a draft response to the Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee on EU engagement and scrutiny;
- a draft response to the Convener of the Finance and Constitution Committee on common UK frameworks;
- to write to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee to propose the mutual invitation of a reporter for both Committee's aquaculture inquiries. It also agreed that any reporter to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee should have full access to relevant private papers, briefings and private agenda items. Furthermore, it agreed to propose Donald Cameron as its reporter;
- to seek further information from Scottish Government officials on subordinate legislation emanating from the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018; and

The meeting closed at 12.48 pm.

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