ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

14th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 1 May 2018

Present:

Claudia Beamish
Finlay Carson
Richard Lyle
Alex Rowley
John Scott (Deputy Convener)

Donald Cameron
Graeme Dey (Convener)
Angus MacDonald
Mark Ruskell
Stewart Stevenson

Apologies were received from Gil Paterson.

The meeting opened at 9.33 am.

1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take items 4, 5, 6 and 7 in private.

2. Inquiry into EU environmental and animal welfare principles: The Committee took evidence from—

   Amy Hill, Lawyer (NZ qualified), ClientEarth;

   Richard Leslie, Co-convenor, Scottish Branch of the UK Environmental Law Association and Partner, Shepherd & Wedderburn;

   Professor Gavin MacLeod Little, Professor of Environmental and Public Law, Stirling Law School, University of Stirling.

   Donald Cameron declared an interest as a practicing advocate and John Scott declared an interest as a farmer.

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instrument. The Committee agree to write to the Scottish Government seeking further clarification on the instrument.

4. Inquiry into EU environmental and animal welfare principles (in private): The Committee considered evidence heard earlier in the meeting and agreed to write to the Finance and Constitution Committee to highlight evidence heard on environmental principles and international trade policy.

5. National Performance Framework National Outcomes (in private): The Committee considered a draft letter to the Local Government and Communities Committee. Various changes were agreed to, and the Committee delegated to the Convener responsibility for finalising the draft letter.

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

- To seek to conclude consideration of the Scottish Crown Estate Bill at Stage 2 before the summer recess, subject to the agreement of Parliament;
- To seek further information from the Scottish Government on forthcoming subordinate legislation on environmental authorisations;
- To hold an oral evidence session with officials on forthcoming subordinate legislation on the Register of Controlling Interests and to consider its approach at a future meeting;
- To consider reports produced by public sector bodies under the climate change reporting duty following their publication towards the end of the year;
- To reschedule its evidence session with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, in June;
- To seek further information from the Scottish Government on the land use strategy;
- To hold an oral evidence session with Scottish Government officials on the biodiversity strategy and biodiversity targets;
- To hold a business planning event in June 2018 and to focus this on its consideration of climate change matters for the remainder of the session;
- Responses to invitations to visit various areas around the country; and
- To write to the Scottish Government seeking a written update on a number of areas falling within the Committee's remit.

7. Witness diversity (gender) (in private): The Committee agreed its approach to encouraging the diversity of witnesses. It also agreed to seek feedback from female witnesses who have given oral evidence to the Committee as part of its plan to improve gender balance at future evidence sessions.

The meeting closed at 12.52 pm.