ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

37th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Present:

Claudia Beamish  Finlay Carson
Angus MacDonald  Gillian Martin (Convener)
Mark Ruskell  John Scott (Deputy Convener)
Stewart Stevenson

The meeting opened at 9.35 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private. The Committee also agreed to consider any review of evidence in relation to its work on biodiversity in private at future meetings.

2. **Biodiversity funding and implementation:** The Committee took evidence from—

   - Eleanor Kay, Agriculture Policy Adviser, Scottish Land & Estates;
   - Andrew Midgley, Environment and Land Use Manager, NFUS;
   - Calum Duncan, Scottish Conservation Manager, Marine Conservation Society;
   - Professor Christopher Spray, Park Authority Board Member, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park;
   - Jonny Hughes, Chief Executive, Scottish Wildlife Trust;
   - Dr Paul Walton, Head of Species and Habitats Policy, Scotland, RSPB;
   - Anna Lawrence, Vice Chair, Community Woodlands;
   - Dr Rob Brooker, SEFARI;
Sally Thomas, Director of People and Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage.

3. **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018**: The Committee took evidence on the REACH (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 from—

   Tom Shields, Acting Chair, Chemical Sciences Scotland;
   Janice Milne, Head of Energy, SEPA;
   Dave Bench, Director, EU Exit, Chemicals, Health and Safety Executive;
   Paul Simpson, Site Compliance and Learning and Development Manager, Grangemouth Manufacturing Centre;
   Kate Young, Brexit and Chemicals Campaigner, ChemTrust (via teleconference);
   Nishma Patel, Chemical Policy Director, Chemical Industries Association (via teleconference).


   Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment;
   Katy Hindmarsh, Head of EU Operational Readiness within the EU Hub for Environment and Forestry, Don McGillivray, Deputy Director, Environmental Quality and Circular Economy, and Hugh Dignon, Head of Wildlife and Biodiversity Unit, Scottish Government.

5. **Biodiversity funding and implementation (in private)**: The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

6. **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (in private)**: The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting. The Committee then considered a proposal by the Scottish Government to consent to the UK Government legislating using the powers under the Act in relation to the following UK statutory instrument proposal—

   The Environment and Wildlife (Legislative Functions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018.

   The Committee agreed it was content for the Scottish Government to give its consent for UK Ministers to lay this regulation in the UK Parliament.

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.