RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

32nd Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 5 December 2018

Present:

Peter Chapman
Jamie Greene
John Mason
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)
Colin Smyth
Maureen Watt

John Finnie
Richard Lyle
Edward Mountain (Convener)
Mike Rumbles
Stewart Stevenson

Also present: Lewis Macdonald MSP, Mark McDonald MSP

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.

2. **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route:** The Committee took evidence from—

   - Stephen Tarr, Managing Director, Major Projects Division, Balfour Beatty;
   - Bill Hocking, Chief Executive Officer, Construction and Investments, Galliford Try;
   - Brian Love, Director, Aberdeen Roads Ltd.

   Peter Chapman declared an interest as a partner in a farming business.

3. **Transport update:** The Committee took evidence from—

   - Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Bill Reeve, Director of Rail, Michelle Rennie, Director of Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Graham Laidlaw, Head of Ferries, and Gary Cox, Head of Aviation, Scottish Government.
4. **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:** The Committee considered proposals 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 proposals:

- Genetically Modified Organisms (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
- The Common Agricultural Policy and Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
- The Common Provisions (Implementing and Delegated Acts) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
- Zoonotic Disease Eradication and Control (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
- Agriculture (Zootechnics) (UK) (EU Exit) (Miscellaneous Amendments)
- Veterinary Medicines and Animals and Animal Products (Examination of Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
- Farriers (Registration) and Animal Health (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

and agreed to write to the Scottish Government to confirm it is content for consent to be given in each case.

5. **Review of evidence (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard during the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

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