RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

34th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 19 December 2018

Present:
Peter Chapman  John Finnie
Jamie Greene  Richard Lyle
John Mason  Edward Mountain (Convener)
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)  Mike Rumbles
Colin Smyth  Stewart Stevenson
Maureen Watt

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. South of Scotland Enterprise Bill: The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

   Steve Dunlop, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise;
   Douglas Cowan, Director of Strengthening Communities, Highland and Islands Enterprise;
   Chris Brodie, Head of Sector Development Skills Planning, Skills Development Scotland;
   Malcolm Roughhead, Chief Executive, Visit Scotland;
   Michael Cross, Director of Access, Skills and Outcome Agreements, Scottish Funding Council.

2. 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—
The Aquatic Animal Health and Plant Health (Transfer of Functions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;

The Plant Breeders’ Rights (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018; and


and agreed to write to the Scottish Government to confirm it is content for consent to be given in each case. The Committee also agreed to request a response from the Scottish Government on certain wider policy matters identified in relation to these instruments which may require to be addressed in future.

3. **South of Scotland Enterprise Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence it heard on the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.53 am.

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