



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minister for Rural Affairs and the  
Natural Environment

**Rural Economy and Connectivity  
Committee**

Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament

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27 January 2021

Dear Ben,

## **UKSI NOTIFICATIONS – EU EXIT**

At its meeting on 27 January 2021, the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee considered the notification below which outlines the Scottish Government's intent to consent to UK Ministers making regulations on its behalf. The Committee can confirm that it is content for consent to be given to:

- **The Organics (Amendment) Regulations 2021**

In agreeing to consent to this notification, the Committee also agreed to bring the following points to your attention.

Whilst the Committee acknowledges that a final draft of the SI was only shared with the Scottish Government a few days before the notification was issued, it must nevertheless again make the point that the time given to Parliament for scrutiny of this SI was inadequate. The final notification was submitted to the Committee late on Tuesday 19 January with a response due by 27 January, meaning that the Committee had no option but to consider this at their meeting today, ahead of the SI being laid by the UK Government on 28 January 2021.

Whilst I appreciate that the Scottish Government may itself often have only have a relatively short time to consider its position on some UK SIs, I would request that as much time as possible is provided to the Committee to consider such notifications to ensure proper scrutiny. If a reduced period for Committee scrutiny cannot be

avoided, I should be grateful if you could ensure that your officials make as early contact as is feasible with the Committee clerks to ensure that the scrutiny process can be managed as effectively as possible.

In relation to the content of this instrument, the Committee would appreciate being informed by the Scottish Government if it appears that significant irregularities and infringements have occurred while derogations set out in this SI are in place.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish at the end.

Edward Mountain  
Convener