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Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2020, seeking a written response to a question that, due to time constraints, members were unable to ask during my evidence session on the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Bill on 15 January.

The Committee's question relates to the relationship between this Bill and the UK Agriculture Bill, which was introduced to the UK Parliament on 16 January 2020, and the impact it may have on the ability of Scottish Ministers to make use of the powers in this Scottish Bill.

The terms of this UK Agriculture Bill are currently being considered to establish whether anything significant has changed from the previous iteration. I am also considering whether there are provisions that we might want to agree for the purposes of the legislative consent memorandum that is being prepared, and if there are any provisions in our own Bill that we might wish to amend to reflect any changes in similar measures in the UK Bill. I will of course advise Parliament if there are such changes to be made, and will ensure that the REC committee is copied into the LCM correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

FERGUS EWING

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