RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

13th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 2 May 2018

Present:

Peter Chapman  John Finnie
Kate Forbes  Jamie Greene
Richard Lyle  John Mason
Edward Mountain (Convener)  Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)
Mike Rumbles  Colin Smyth
Stewart Stevenson

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.

2. **Crofting legislation reform:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Michael O’Neill, Crofting Bill Team Leader, Gordon Jackson, Head of Agricultural Development and Crofting, and Ian Davidson, Head of Agriculture Policy Division, Scottish Government.

   Edward Mountain declared an interest as a farmer.

   Peter Chapman declared an interest as a farmer.

   Stewart Stevenson declared an interest as an owner of a small agricultural holding.

3. **Salmon farming in Scotland:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Scott Landsburgh, Former Chief Executive, Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation;
Ben Hadfield, Managing Director, Marine Harvest Scotland;

Craig Anderson, Chief Executive, Scottish Salmon Company;

Grant Cumming, Managing Director, Grieg Seafood Shetland, Grieg Seafood;

Stewart Graham, Group Managing Director, Gael Force Group.

Edward Mountain declared an interest as a partner in a wild salmon fishery.

4. **Salmon farming in Scotland (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence it has heard to date on its inquiry on salmon farming in Scotland.

The meeting closed at 12.31 pm.

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5211
Email: steve.farrell@parliament.scot