RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

14th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 9 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

Also present: Donald Cameron and Graeme Dey

The meeting opened at 9.03 am.

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

2. **Rail services in Scotland:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Alex Hynes, Managing Director, Angus Thom, Chief Operating Officer, and
   David Dickson, Infrastructure Director, Scotrail Alliance.

   Stewart Stevenson declared interests as Honorary Vice President of Rail Future
   UK and as Honorary Vice President of the Scottish Association for Public
   Transport.

   John Finnie declared interests as a member of the Scottish Parliament's Cross
   Party Group on Rail and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport
   Workers (RMT) Parliamentary Group.

   Gail Ross declared an interest as Honorary Vice President of the Friends of the
   Far North Line.

   John Mason declared an interest as Co-Convener of the Scottish Parliament's
   Cross Party Group on Rail.
3. **Salmon farming in Scotland**: The Committee took evidence from—

Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Mike Palmer, Deputy Director, Aquaculture, Crown Estate, Recreational Fisheries, EMFF and Europe Division, Marine Scotland, Alastair Mitchell, Head of Aquaculture & Recreational Fisheries, Marine Scotland, and Charles Allan, Head of Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Scotland, Scottish Government.

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

Donald Cameron declared an interest in fish farming and fishing.

4. **Subordinate legislation**: The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

- Plant Health (Scotland) Amendment Order 2018 (SSI 2018/112)
- Common Agricultural Policy (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/122)

and agreed not to make any recommendations in relation to the instruments.

5. **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 12.27 pm.

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