RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

18th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 6 June 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 10.03 am.

1. Implications of the outcome of the EU Referendum for Scotland: The Committee took evidence from—

   Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Mike Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe, Ian Davidson, Head of Agriculture Policy Division, John Brownlee, Strategy & Post-EU Referendum Unit, and Ian Mitchell, EU Strategy and Migration 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.

2. Agriculture update: The Committee took evidence from—

   Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Annabel Turpie, Chief Operating Officer, Douglas Petrie, Head of Area offices and Head of Agricultural Profession, Eddie Turnbull, Head of Information Services, and Andrew Watson, Director of Rural Payments
Agency and Head of Rural Payments and Inspections Division Implementation, 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. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

   The Seed (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/152)

   The Traffic Signs (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations and General Directions 2018 (SSI 2018/161)

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

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.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

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