RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

27th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 31 October 2018

Present:

Peter Chapman
Jamie Greene
John Mason
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)
Colin Smyth
Maureen Watt

John Finnie
Richard Lyle
Edward Mountain (Convener)
Mike Rumbles
Stewart Stevenson

The meeting opened at 8.17 am.

1. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny (in private):** The Committee agreed a draft letter on its Pre-Budget Scrutiny.

2. **Salmon farming in Scotland (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report.

3. **South of Scotland Enterprise Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to its scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

4. **Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

5. **Agriculture update:** The Committee took evidence from—

    Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Elinor Mitchell, Director for Agriculture and Rural Economy, David Barnes, National Adviser on Agriculture Policy, Ian Davidson, Head of Agriculture Policy Division, and Douglas Petrie, Head of Area Offices & Head of Agricultural Profession, 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.

The meeting closed at 12.19 pm.

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