The meeting opened at 8.30 am.

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

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

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

   Alex Hynes, Managing Director, and Angus Thom, Chief Operating Officer, 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.

4. **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:** The Committee considered proposals by the Scottish Government to consent to the UK Government legislating using the powers under the Act in relation to the following UK statutory instrument proposals—

   - The Exotic Disease (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
   - The Aquatic Animal Health and Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
   - The Fisheries (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

   and agreed to write to the Scottish Government to confirm it is content for consent to be given in each case.

5. **Ferry Services in Scotland (in private):** Members reported back from a recent visit to Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited.

The meeting closed at 11.52 am.

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