



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

2nd Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Wednesday 16 January 2019

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 8.58 am.

1. **Transport (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered a draft Stage 1 report.
2. **Budget Scrutiny 2019-20:** The Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's Budget 2019-20 from—

Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Andrew Watson, Deputy Director for Agricultural Policy Implementation, David Blair, Head of Budget Challenge, Graeme Hutton, Head of ARE Finance, Kirsten Beddows, Branch Head, CAP, GM Policy and Agriculture Climate Change, and Jo O'Hara, Head of Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Government;

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Mike Baxter, Director for Finance and Corporate Services, Robbie McGhee, Head of Digital Connectivity Policy, and Frances Pacitti, Director, Aviation Maritime Freights and Canals, Scottish Government.

Edward Mountain declared an interest as a farmer.

Peter Chapman declared an interest as a farmer.

Stewart Stevenson declared interests as an owner of a small agricultural holding, Honorary Vice President of Rail Future UK and as Honorary Vice President of the Scottish Association for Public Transport.

3. **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 Agriculture (Transfer of Functions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019; and

The Food and Drink, Veterinary Medicines and Residues (Amendment etc.) (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. The Committee also agreed to request a response from the Scottish Government on certain wider policy matters identified in relation to these instruments which may require to be addressed in future.

4. **South of Scotland Enterprise Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence it heard on the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill at its meeting on Monday 14 January.

The meeting closed at 12.42 pm.

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