



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**22nd Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)**

**Wednesday 16 September 2020**

Present:

Peter Chapman

Christine Grahame (Committee  
Substitute)

Angus MacDonald

Oliver Mundell

Colin Smyth

John Finnie

Richard Lyle

Edward Mountain (Convener)

Mike Rumbles

Stewart Stevenson

Maureen Watt (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Emma Harper (member in charge of the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill)

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Fiona Lovatt, Director, Flock Health Limited;

Inspector Alan Dron, Chair, Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and National Rural Crime Co-ordinator, Police Scotland;

Kirsteen Mackenzie, Animal Welfare Officer, Perth and Kinross Council;

Mike Flynn, Chief Superintendent, Scottish SPCA;

Steve Jenkinson, Access and Countryside Advisor, Kennel Club;

Paula Boyden, Director, Dogs Trust;

Bridget Jones, Strategic Paths and Projects Manager, NatureScot.

Edward Mountain declared interests, as a member of a family farming partnership, which has experienced livestock worrying, and as a Honorary Associate member of the British Veterinary Association.

Maureen Watt declared an interest as a Honorary Associate member of the British Veterinary Association.

Peter Chapman declared an interest as a partner in a farming business in Aberdeen.

Stewart Stevenson declared an interest as an owner of a small agricultural holding which keeps sheep.

2. **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (in private):**  
The Committee reviewed the evidence heard at agenda item 1.

The meeting closed at 11.43 am.

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