

# **RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 23 September 2009

Session 3

£5.00

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2009.

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Information Policy Team, Office of the Queen's Printer for Scotland, Admail ADM4058, Edinburgh, EH1 1NG, or by email to:  
[licensing@oqps.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oqps.gov.uk).

OQPS administers the copyright on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

Printed and published in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body by  
RR Donnelley.

---

## CONTENTS

Wednesday 23 September 2009

Col.

<b>SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION</b> .....	1947
Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Control Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2009 (SS1 2009/304) .....	1947
Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2009 (SS1 2009/305) .....	1947
Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SS1 2009/306) .....	1947
<b>EUROPEAN UNION ISSUES</b> .....	1948

---

## RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting 2009, Session 3

### CONVENER

\*Maureen Watt (North East Scotland) (SNP)

### DEPUTY CONVENER

\*John Scott (Ayr) (Con)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Karen Gillon (Clydesdale) (Lab)  
Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)  
\*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)  
\*Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab)  
\*Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)  
\*Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)  
Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP)  
Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD)  
Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

\*attended

### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Peter McGrath

### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Roz Wheeler

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Lori Gray

### LOCATION

Committee Room 3



## Scottish Parliament

### Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

*Wednesday 23 September 2009*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:02*]

### Subordinate Legislation

#### Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Control Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2009 (SSI 2009/304)

#### Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/305)

#### Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/306)

**The Convener (Maureen Watt):** Good morning. I welcome everybody to the committee's 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 2009. The main purpose of today's meeting is to discuss stage 1 evidence on the Marine (Scotland) Bill with a view to agreeing a report in the next couple of weeks. It was agreed previously that that discussion would take place in private, as is standard practice in committees.

I remind everybody to turn off their mobile phones. We have apologies from Liam McArthur.

Agenda item 1 is consideration of three negative instruments. We have received no comments from the Subordinate Legislation Committee. No committee members have raised any concerns in advance and no motions to annul have been lodged. If members have no comments on any of the instruments, do we agree to note them?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## European Union Issues

10:04

**The Convener:** Item 2 is consideration of a paper that provides an update on current issues that relate to the committee's remit at European Union level. Does anybody have any comments to make on the paper?

**Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP):** To prove that I have read the paper, I want to check whether something is a typo. Under sheep tagging, the paper says that there were

"concerns that these proposals would not be expensive and overly bureaucratic".

**The Convener:** Yes, it is a typo. The clerk pointed it out to me at the start of the meeting.

**Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab):** On the same subject, it is very disappointing that the commissioner responsible flatly refuses to entertain any arguments, no matter how logical they are, about the difficulties of implementing the regulation on sheep tagging. It is worth the committee recording disappointment that that is the case. There are good arguments to be made and it appears that they are simply not being listened to at the minute.

**John Scott (Ayr) (Con):** I second that.

**The Convener:** You are absolutely right, Peter. Sheep farmers and NFU Scotland have been perfectly reasonable in their requests to Commissioner Vassiliou and they are simply not being listened to.

**John Scott:** We should urge the NFUS and the Government to keep pressing for more—

**The Convener:** Sanity on the issue.

**John Scott:** Not sanity, but more relaxation and a more flexible approach from Europe. We should maintain that position.

**Alasdair Morgan:** We certainly agree on the need for sanity, convener.

**Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP):** Well, not the Tory party.

**The Convener:** Are there any other points?

**Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab):** Would a fine consequent to the European Commission's legal action on sewer overflows, which is mentioned under environment, have any implications for the Scottish Government or would it apply only to the United Kingdom Government?

**The Convener:** If it is at Kilbarchan—*[Interruption.]* The clerk informs me that it is being pursued at the UK level.

That concludes the public part of today's meeting. I thank members of the public for attending.

10:06

*Meeting continued in private until 12:36.*

Members who would like a printed copy of the *Official Report* to be forwarded to them should give notice at the Document Supply Centre.

Members who wish to suggest corrections for the archive edition should mark them clearly in the report or send it to the Official Report, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

The deadline for corrections to this edition is:

**Wednesday 30 September 2009**

#### PRICES AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

##### OFFICIAL REPORT daily editions

*Single copies: £5.00*

*Meetings of the Parliament annual subscriptions: £350.00*

##### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS weekly compilation

*Single copies: £3.75*

*Annual subscriptions: £150.00*

Published in Edinburgh by RR Donnelley and available from:

#### **Blackwell's Bookshop**

**53 South Bridge  
Edinburgh EH1 1YS  
0131 622 8222**

#### **Blackwell's Bookshops:**

243-244 High Holborn  
London WC1 7DZ  
Tel 020 7831 9501

All trade orders for Scottish Parliament documents should be placed through Blackwell's Edinburgh.

And through other good booksellers

#### **Blackwell's Scottish Parliament Documentation**

**Helpline** may be able to assist with additional information on publications of or about the Scottish Parliament, their availability and cost:

#### **Telephone orders and inquiries**

**0131 622 8283 or  
0131 622 8258**

#### **Fax orders**

**0131 557 8149**

#### **E-mail orders, Subscriptions and standing orders**

**[business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk)**

#### **Scottish Parliament**

**All documents are available on the Scottish Parliament website at:**

**[www.scottish.parliament.co.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.co.uk)**

For more information on the Parliament, or if you have an inquiry about information in languages other than English or in alternative formats (for example, Braille; large print or audio), please contact:

#### **Public Information Service**

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

**Telephone: 0131 348 5000**

**Fòn: 0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)**

**Textphone users** may contact us on  
**0800 092 7100**

We also welcome calls using the RNID  
Typetalk service.

**Fax: 0131 348 5601**

**E-mail: [sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk)**

We welcome written correspondence in any language.