RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

17TH Meeting, 2000 (Session 1)

Tuesday 13 June 2000

The Committee will meet at 1.30 pm in the Festival Theatre, 13/29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

1. National Parks (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

2. Subordinate Legislation: The Committee will consider the Food (Animal Products from Belgium) (Emergency Control) (Scotland) Revocation Order SSI 2000/159 and the Food (Animal Feedingstuffs from Belgium) (Control) (Scotland) Revocation Regulations, SSI 2000/158, along with an Executive Note from the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department.

3. Petition: The Committee will consider Petition PE 197 from Mr John D Stewart regarding the transparency of agricultural subsidies.

Richard Davies
Clerk to the Committee

Papers relevant to this meeting:

Item 2: SSI 2000/158 and SSI 2000/159 and Executive Note
Item 3: PE 197 and Cover Note by Clerks
RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Scottish Statutory Instrument 2000

The Food (Animal Products from Belgium) (Emergency Control) (Scotland)
Revocation Order SSI 2000/159

The Food (Animal Feedingstuffs from Belgium) (Control) (Scotland)
Revocation Regulations, SSI 2000/158

General Procedure note

1. The Health and Community Care Committee have been assigned the primary role in relation to these instruments, with the Rural Affairs Committee being designated a secondary Committee.

2. These orders come into force on 31 May 2000 and are laid under a "negative procedure" which means that the Parliament has power to annul the order by resolution within 40 days, excluding recess. In the case of this order therefore, the time limit for Parliamentary action expires on 9 July 2000. Any MSP may lodge a motion to propose to the lead committee that the order be annulled.

3. The Rural Affairs Committee is obliged to report to the Health Committee with their views by 23 June 2000.

Actions required on 13 June 2000

4. A SERAD Executive Note is attached. Officials have not been requested to speak to this Order.

Tracey Hawe
Rural Affairs Committee
Assistant Clerk
June 2000
PETITION PE 197: John R D Stewart

Date Received: 12 May 2000
Date Referred: 23 May 2000
Subject: Transparency of agricultural subsidy payments

1. Petition PE 197 calls for the Scottish Parliament to require of the farming profession the same transparency of operation in respect of their subsidies as is required of the legal profession.

2. A copy of the Petition is attached.

Options

3. The Petitioner has made enquiries as to the public availability of information on the legal aid paid to law firms as compared to area aid paid to farmers. He has established that information on legal aid receipts is publicly available, and wishes to see information on area aid payments made publicly available.

4. The Committee should consider whether it wishes to request the views of the European Committee, any other subject Committee or the Audit Commission on this matter.

Tracey Hawe
Assistant Clerk
June 2000