RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7th Meeting, 2002 (Session 1)

Tuesday 5 March 2002

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 3

1. **Item in Private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 6 in private.

2. **Subordinate Legislation:** Mr Allan Wilson (Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development) to move—

   That the Rural Development Committee recommends that The Pig Industry Restructuring (Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/43) be approved.

3. **Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will consider the following instruments under the negative procedure—

   - The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) (No.3) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2002 (SSI 2002/35)
   - The Sheep and Goats Identification (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (SSI 2002/39)
   - The Pig Industry Restructuring (Non-Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/44)
   - The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Quota and Third Country Fishing Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/51)
   - The Sea Fish (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/58).

4. **Integrated Rural Development:** The Committee will consider a paper from the clerk on future meetings and visits for its inquiry into Integrated Rural Development.

5. **Integrated Rural Development:** The Committee will consider the programme of evidence for its inquiry.

6. **Integrated Rural Development:** The Committee will consider names of possible advisers to the Committee in connection with its inquiry.
The following papers are attached or are relevant to this meeting:

**Agenda item 2: Subordinate Legislation**

The Pig Industry Restructuring (Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/43)

**Agenda item 3: Subordinate Legislation**

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) (No.3) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2002 ([SSI 2002/35](#))

The Sheep and Goats Identification (Scotland) Amendment Regulations ([SSI 2002/39](#))

The Pig Industry Restructuring (Non-Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/44)

The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Quota and Third Country Fishing Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/51)

The Sea Fish (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/58)

Subordinate Legislation Committee [13th Report](#).

**Agenda item 4: Integrated Rural Development**

A paper from the clerk is attached

**Agenda item 5: Integrated Rural Development**

A paper from the clerk is attached.

**Agenda item 6: Integrated Rural Development**

A paper from the clerk is attached (for Members only)
The Subordinate Legislation Committee considered the following instruments at its meeting on 12 February and 26 February—

The Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) (No.3) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2002 (SSI 2002/35)
The Sheep and Goats Identification (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002 (SSI 2002/39)
The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Quota and Third Country Fishing Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/51)
The Sea Fish (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/58)

The Subordinate Legislation Committee made no comments to the committee in its consideration of all of these instruments.

The Committee considered the following instruments on 12 February—

The Pig Industry Restructuring (Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/43)
The Pig Industry Restructuring (Non-Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002 (SSI 2002/44)

The Subordinate Legislation Committee had some brief queries on these instruments, but were satisfied with the responses received by the Executive at its meeting on 26 February. Extracts from their 13th report are attached.

I have received no queries from members on any of these instruments, so therefore have not asked Executive officials to be present at the meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Jake Thomas
Assistant Clerk to the Committee
27 February 2002
Subordinate Legislation Committee

13th Report, 2002

Subordinate Legislation

Instrument subject to approval

The Pig Industry Restructuring (Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002, (SSI 2002/43)

Instrument subject to annulment

The Pig Industry Restructuring (Non-Capital Grant) (Scotland) Scheme 2002, (SSI 2002/44)

Question
23. The Committee sought confirmation from the Executive that no State Aid issues arise in relation to these instruments.

Answer
24. In its response, reproduced at Appendix B, the Executive has confirmed that State aid notification for the Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme, of which these instruments form part, was given to the European Commission on 31st March 2000. Following extended consultation with the Commission, the Commission on 13 December 2000 gave formal clearance for the Scheme.

25. The Committee is grateful for this helpful response which it draws to the attention of the Parliament and lead committee. The Committee draws the instrument to the attention of the Parliament and the lead committee on the ground that it required further explanation, provided by the Executive.
APPENDIX B

THE PIG INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING (CAPITAL GRANT) (SCOTLAND) SCHEME 2002, (SSI/2002/43)


On 12th February 2002 the Committee asked:

1. The Subordinate Legislation Committee today considered the above instrument and requests an explanation of the following matter.

2. The Committee seeks confirmation from the Executive that no State Aid issues arise in relation to these instruments.

The Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department responds as follows:

State aid notification for the Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme, of which these instruments form part, was given to the European Commission on 31st March 2000. Following extended consultation with the Commission, formal clearance for the Scheme was given by the Commission on 13 December 2000.

ALISON MCLURE
for Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department

19th February 2002
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Integrated Rural Development

Proposed Visits – further details

1. Purpose of Paper

This paper aims to provide the Committee with an update to consider and agree its further proposed visits in connection with the inquiry into integrated rural development.

2. Visits already agreed

At its meeting on 12 February 2002, the Rural Development Committee agreed to have a committee meeting in Dalry on Tuesday 19 March and in Lochaber on Tuesday 23 April. On both dates, it was agreed to hold fact-finding visits in the local area the day before the formal Committee meeting. Funding for both of these visits has been formally approved, and agreement to meet outside Edinburgh has been given.

3. Proposed Visits

A formal request for any subsequent visits must be put to the Conveners’ Group by Friday 29 March, if the Committee is to have any other fact-finding and Committee meetings outwith Edinburgh. The following possibilities were previously proposed for the inquiry into integrated rural development:-

(a) Colonsay

On 15 January 2002 the Committee agreed in principle to hold a Committee meeting on Colonsay. Numerous logistical problems exist with this option, mainly due to the timings of ferries and the length of time it is possible to stay on the island. There is only one ferry to Colonsay that would not involve an overnight stay for a minimum of 2 nights, and this is on a Wednesday from Kennacraig (Kintyre). The ferry leaves at 8.15 am, arriving at 11.50 am and departing at 5.50 pm (to arrive in Kennacraig at 9.45 pm). This gives us only 6 hours on Colonsay. Committees are not allowed to meet formally while plenary sessions of the Parliament are taking place, and broadcasting require at least 2 hours to set up before any external meeting, and an hour to pack everything after the meeting. This means that a committee meeting on Colonsay would not be possible.

The Committee therefore has a number of options (all of which may be possible in the week of Tuesday 7 May, when no committee meeting is currently planned):
Option 1

Designate reporters to visit Colonsay on Wednesday 8 May, which would require an overnight stay on the Tuesday (and possibly on the Wednesday) in the Kintyre area. Reporters could report back to the Committee on its findings the following week. We would need to seek Bureau approval for this, as it would involve missing the Wednesday plenary session, but members could be back in Edinburgh late on Wednesday evening for the plenary session on Thursday.

Option 2

Hold a fact-finding visit in Kintyre on the Monday afternoon (6 May), as we have done in Dalry and Lochaber, followed by a formal committee meeting in Campbeltown on the Tuesday morning (7 May). Members could then return to Edinburgh on Tuesday afternoon, while nominated reporters stay and then travel on to Colonsay the following morning (8 May). This would involve one overnight stay for all members, and at least 2 nights overnight stay (and possibly 3 nights) for those going to Colonsay.

Option 3

Hold a committee meeting on another island (for example, Mull) where access issues are not so problematic) on the morning of Tuesday 7 May. Again, the committee could have a series of fact-finding visits in the afternoon of Monday 6 May. Members could then return to Edinburgh on Tuesday afternoon, while nominated reporters travel to the vicinity of Kennacraig to stay the night and then travel on to Colonsay the following morning (8 May). Again, this would involve one overnight stay for all members, and at least 2 nights overnight stay (and possibly 3 nights) for those going to Colonsay.

• The Committee is asked to decide on which of the 3 options above it feels would be most suitable. Members are asked to note that all 3 options depend on approval being granted for reporters to be absent from plenary business on Wednesday 8 May. Members are also asked to note that options 2 and 3 include travel and visits on Monday 6 May, which is a public holiday, and therefore alternative dates may need to be explored if either of these options is selected.

• The Committee is asked to agree on reporters to visit Colonsay. It is suggested that four reporters are selected, with each party grouping on the Committee being invited to select a representative.

(b) Huntly, Buckie & Aboyne

Committees have been invited to consider fact-finding visits in the Aberdeen area while the Parliament meets in Aberdeen during the week commencing Monday 27 May. The Rural Development Committee previously agreed to explore the possibility of holding a meeting and series of fact-finding visits in the area during that week.
There will be plenary sessions in Aberdeen on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. However, due to the fact that the whole Parliament will be in Aberdeen, and the size of the project for broadcasting, it is not possible to hold a formal committee meeting during that week.

The Committee therefore has two options:

**Option 1**

The committee can still carry out a series of fact-finding visits on Monday 27 May, when all members should be in the Aberdeen area for that week’s plenary sessions. In order to make best use of the day, it is suggested that Members could make their way to Aberdeen on Sunday evening, so that we could make an early start on Monday morning.

The suggestion would be for a series of site visits in Buckie, Huntly and Aboyne, identified in conjunction with members of the Committee who represent the local area.

**Option 2**

In addition to the fact-finding visits described at Option 1 during the week when Parliament is in Aberdeen, the committee may wish to hold a formal committee meeting in the area on a separate occasion. The Committee’s work programme suggests that Friday 7 June may be a suitable date.

- The Committee is asked to decide which of the 2 options above it feels would be most suitable.

Jake Thomas
Assistant Clerk to the Committee
27 February 2002
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Integrated Rural Development

Programme of evidence

1. **Background**

   The Committee has previously agreed an inquiry into Integrated Rural Development (IRD). The aim of the inquiry is to assess the factors that make for successful IRD and to identify the barriers to IRD.

   The following remit for the inquiry was agreed on 12 February 2002:

   “The Committee will review the responsibilities of the Scottish Executive in relation to the development and implementation of policies designed to promote integrated rural development. In doing so, the Committee intends to review:

   - the provision of funding for programmes designed to contribute to integrated rural development;
   - the factors which assist communities to play an active and effective role in their sustainable development;
   - the barriers that may exist to achieving integrated rural development and the best means of removing these barriers;
   - the impact which the review of European Union policies in relation to traditional rural activities might have on the future development of policies in this area;
   - how communities can become more involved in the development of IRD policies”.

2. **Written evidence**

   A call for written evidence has been issued, with evidence requested by 14 March, after which suitable arrangements for circulating written evidence will be made. A written briefing has been requested from the Scottish Executive, and should also be received by 14 March.

3. **Adviser**

   On 26 February 2002 the Parliamentary Bureau approved in principle the Committee’s request to appoint an adviser for this inquiry. If the Committee is successful in appointing a suitable adviser, that person will assist further with identifying key issues and suitable witnesses.

4. **Oral evidence programme**

   On 12 February the Committee agreed to consider a tentative list of witnesses for the inquiry on 5 March. It is suggested that the Committee decides a provisional programme of evidence now, but retains flexibility to review the programme if appropriate changes or important additions appear to be necessary (for example, in the light of written evidence or evidence from the early visits).
(a) Rationale for the evidence programme

The Committee has previously agreed that it intends to hold approximately half a
dozen evidence sessions for this inquiry. Integrated Rural Development is
understood to involve a range of different interests: from community and business
development, tourism, conservation and natural heritage, agriculture, sea fishing,
aquaculture, field sports, and forestry, and the programme of evidence taking
suggested is designed to reflect this diversity of interests.

The Committee has previously agreed that, while it must consider overall issues
which can be examined in evidence from national representative bodies, it also
wants to hear from individuals and local businesses/concerns from whom the
Committee may not otherwise normally receive evidence.

The programme will therefore be a mixture of sessions outside Edinburgh and
meetings in Edinburgh.

The Committee has agreed, and received formal approval for, two fact-finding visits
and formal meetings outside Edinburgh. The first is in Dalry, (formal meeting on 19
March) and the second in Lochaber, (likely to be Fort William) on 23 April.

Further visits are planned to island and coastal communities (initial proposals were
for Colonsay and for Buckie/Huntly/Aboyne). These visits may be in a fact-finding
format, without a formal meeting.

The Committee may also have 2 or 3 formal meetings in Edinburgh which will be
substantially devoted to evidence-taking for this inquiry.

Through its sessions outside Edinburgh the Committee will be able to establish
whether there are particular barriers to rural development which apply specifically to
highland, lowland, island and coastal communities, and to experience some of these
issues first hand.

The Committee will also be able to consider whether there are more general themes
which emerge that it may be able to draw out in discussions with national
representative organisations and with the Minister and his officials during the
sessions in Edinburgh.

(b) Format of gathering oral evidence

i) At the two ‘away’ sessions at which formal Committee meetings have already
been arranged, a variety of evidence-gathering methods are available to the
Committee:

- visits to sites of particular interest can be arranged. These can be identified in
discussion with local members of the Committee, by SPICe research, by
points raised in written evidence, and so on. Realistically, each session may
be able to take in two or three such site visits.
- a ‘networking’ event may be arranged. For example, key local individuals
could be invited to an informal discussion with Committee members over
lunch, or during the evening when the Committee is staying overnight on a visit. Such an event could be structured but informal, and involve people identified by local members of the Committee.

- an opportunity for participation by members of the public who attend the formal Committee meeting may be arranged. This is difficult to do formally, as it would cause problems for the Official Report, and those participating could not be identified in advance for agenda purposes. However, it may be possible, for example, to have a 30-minute slot before the meeting formally opens. During that slot the public audience could ask questions or put key points, and members of the Committee may then wish to take those points up in questioning on the record once the formal meeting opens. Alternatively, the meeting could be suspended in the middle to have a 30-minute slot for a similar purpose.

- witnesses will be selected to give formal oral evidence on the record during the meeting. It is suggested that formal witnesses may be selected from two distinct categories – a first half involving representatives of formal local bodies (such as the local authority and local enterprise company, etc), and a second half involving individuals with particular local experiences which the Committee wishes to hear.

ii) At the further two away sessions still to be finalised, site visits may be the main method of gathering evidence. However, some form of informal networking event (as described above) could also be arranged.

iii) It is anticipated that the 2 or 3 meetings in Edinburgh will follow a fairly ‘traditional’ mode of hearing from witnesses, and will take place towards the end of the inquiry process. As these meetings may serve to draw the evidence together to examine overall lessons on integrated rural development, it may be appropriate for suitable national representative bodies to be invited to give evidence at that point. It is suggested that the Committee may wish to consider a broad agenda of themes for those meetings, but to leave the actual list of witnesses substantially flexible until a later date, so that the witnesses can be selected in the light of evidence gathered in the early part of the inquiry.

The following themes may assist in planning these 2 or 3 meetings:

- Rural Development and Diversification in Agriculture
- Integrating Development in Traditional Rural Industries
- Small Industry in Rural Areas
- Tourism and the Natural Environment
- Planning, Funding and Regulation of Rural Development – closing session with the Minister and officials.

Members may wish to make further suggestions for these themes.
(c) Suggested witnesses for Dalry and Lochaber

**Dalry**
Dumfries and Galloway Enterprise  
Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Scottish Forest Industries Cluster / Timber Growers Association  
Chairman or similar from Local National Farmers Union Branch  
Buccleuch Estates

**Lochaber**
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Highlands and Islands Tourist Board  
Highland Council  
Local Member of Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers / Fish Farmer  
Crofters Commission/Scottish Crofting Foundation  
Knoydart Foundation  
Lochaber LEADER group

**5. Summary**

The Rural Development Committee is asked to agree arrangements for oral evidence for the inquiry into integrated rural development. Specifically, the Committee is asked:

a) to agree the rationale for the evidence programme described in paragraph 4(a) above;

b) to agree in principle to hold informal networking events prior to both its away meetings (and also if possible as part of its visits to an island and coastal community), to explore opportunities to participate for members of the public who attend the Committee meetings, and to remit the detailed arrangements to the Committee’s work programme reporters;

c) to agree in principle to suggestions for local representative interests to give formal evidence at its away meetings at Dalry and Lochaber, as described in paragraph 4(c) above;

d) to agree to remit the further detailed arrangements for each evidence session to the Committee’s work programme reporters;

e) to agree that the work programme reporters will consult with members of the Committee representing the local area when making arrangements for the agreed meetings and fact-finding visits outside Edinburgh;

f) to agree to a range of broad themes to explore during its evidence sessions in Edinburgh as described in paragraph 4(b)iii) above (with witnesses for these sessions to be selected based on responses to written evidence and evidence from the fact finding visits).