RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

15th Meeting, 2010 (Session 3)

Wednesday 9 June 2010

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 6.

1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.

2. Subordinate legislation: The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

   the Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/204);

   the Plant Health (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010 (SSI 2010/206);

   the Plant Health Fees (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/207).

3. Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

4. Legislation on wildlife and the natural environment: The Committee will consider its approach to forthcoming legislation on wildlife and the natural environment.

Peter McGrath
Clerk to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda Item 2**

- The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/204) RAE/S3/10/15/1

- Correspondence from the Minister for Environment on the Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 RAE/S3/10/15/2

- The Plant Health (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010 (SSI 2010/206) RAE/S3/10/15/3

- The Plant Health Fees (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/207) RAE/S3/10/15/4

**Agenda Item 3**

- Marshalled List and Groupings of Amendments for Stage 2

**Agenda Item 4**

- Paper from the clerk (private) RAE/S3/10/15/4

**For Information**

- Recent Developments RAE/S3/10/15/5
RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S REMIT

Note by the Clerk: each time an agenda and papers for a meeting are circulated to members, a short paper like this one will also be included as a means of alerting members to relevant documents of general interest which they can follow up through the links included.

Pack Inquiry report delayed

Brian Pack has been given more time to complete his final report into support for agriculture. Mr Pack is expected however to give a number of short-term recommendations at the Royal Highland Show later this month. The Scottish Government news release can be accessed using the following link:

Inquiry into support for agriculture

Marine Framework Directive

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment has written to the Convener to provide an update on the outcome of the consultation on the Marine Framework Directive. The text of this letter is below:

“I wrote to you in November 2009 advising that a consultation on the Directive was about to commence on a UK wide basis.

I am writing to update you on the outcome of the consultation and advise of next steps.

The consultation on draft transposing Regulations revealed broad support for the proposed approach to transposing the Directive. Issues raised by respondents during the consultation have been addressed in various ways: in some instances changes were made to the Regulations and the Impact Assessment has also been re-drafted.

I have today written to Richard Benyon, MP, Minister for Natural Environment & Fisheries agreeing that the Regulations can be laid in the UK parliament, that the impact assessment and Government response to the consultation can be published. The date for transposition is 15 July 2010.

I am copying this letter to the convenor of the European and External Relations Committee.”

RICHARD LOCHHEAD
CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2 JUNE 2010

Following the Scudamore Report into foot and mouth disease, which was debated in the Chamber in October 2008, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment has announced his intention to establish an 'Expert Forum', the purpose of which is to provide independent scrutiny and advice to Scottish Government on ways to work in partnership with Stakeholders to improve the management of animal health and welfare in Scotland. The following terms of reference have been provided:

The role of the, ‘Expert Forum’, is to develop, and present to the Scottish Government, proposals on a partnership approach to the management (including the costs) of animal health and welfare in Scotland.

1. This forum will be a short-term group that will report to Scottish Ministers by the 31st December 2010 (depending on what may emerge from Brussels and/or London). The group will specifically:

   a. Provide evidence based advice to Scottish Government on potential proposals for sharing responsibility of the management of animal health and welfare in Scotland with Industry;

   b. Provide evidence based advice to Scottish Government on potential revenue generating mechanisms that may be applied in Scotland enabling the costs of the management of exotic animal disease to be shared with Industry; and

   c. Develop approaches to public and Stakeholder engagement.

2. Individuals who form part of the ‘Forum’, will represent the breadth of interests across all animal keepers and will be individuals who are respected in their own right. Members of the ‘Forum’ will participate on an individual basis rather than as representatives of the organisations that they are affiliated to.

3. The ‘Expert Forum’, will work in a transparent manner publishing any advice provided to Scottish Government in the public domain.