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Graeme Dey
Convenor
Environment, Climate Change, and Land Reform
Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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Dear Graeme,

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOLLOWING COMMITTEE

During my appearance in front of the Committee on 21 February 2017, I said I would provide some additional details to expand on some of the issues and points which were raised there. Attached is additional information on:

1. local authority compliance with the Household Waste Charter
2. key recycling materials
3. abatement figures for forestry and peatlands
4. deer management and peatland restoration.

I hope that the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours,

Roseanna Cunningham

LOCAL AUTHORITY COMPLIANCE WITH THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE CHARTER

The Scottish Government and COSLA are working together in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland on the Household Recycling Charter. The initial steps for councils who have signed the Charter is to develop transition plans, with support from Zero Waste Scotland, to scope out how they can make the transition from their existing systems to the new single system. The Scottish Government has committed to align financial support for best practice in recycling with the Charter. From a Scottish Government perspective, we do not see any barriers to councils signing the Charter, since we have made clear that we would take into account existing contractual arrangements.

KEY RECYCLING MATERIALS

Our priority is creating a framework that supports high value materials circulating through a circular economy. Together with food waste, our priority materials are paper, card, metals, glass and plastic (as set out in our Waste Regulations), and our initial priorities for action through producer responsibility are mattresses, tyres and furniture.

ABATEMENT FIGURES FOR FORESTRY AND PEATLANDS

The rate for new planting in TIMES has been imposed an upper limit of 10,000 hectares per year in 2017, which increases to 12,000 from 2020/21, 14,000 from 2022/23 and 15,000 from 2024/25 onwards. At the same time, peatland restoration has been set an upper limit of 10,000 hectares per year in 2017/18, increasing to 20,000 hectares per year in 2018/19. The abatement potential of afforestation per hectare in Scotland was derived from data from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, and amounts to 6.99 tCO₂e per hectare 20 years after planting. The abatement potential of peatland restoration per hectare in Scotland was derived from research undertaken by the James Hutton Institute and amounts to 1.41 tCO₂e per hectare 20 years after restoration.

DEER MANAGEMENT AND PEATLAND RESTORATION

Peatland Actions grants will be made following scrutiny of applications to ensure that each supported project will be deliverable, represents value for money and will provide an on-going legacy. As part of the application process and on-going monitoring commitments will be required from each applicant that future maintenance and protection will be undertaken. Deer may be an issue on some, but not all peatland restoration sites and as part of their on-going maintenance/ protection commitment land managers may undertake fencing, or other appropriate actions, as part of their own contributions to the restoration project.