



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**3rd Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)**

**Tuesday 23 January 2018**

Present:

Claudia Beamish  
Finlay Carson  
Kate Forbes  
Angus MacDonald  
Mark Ruskell

Donald Cameron  
Graeme Dey (Convener)  
Richard Lyle  
Alex Rowley  
John Scott (Deputy Convener)

Apologies were received from Stewart Stevenson.

The meeting opened at 9.33 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Environmental implications for Scotland of the UK leaving the EU:** The Committee took evidence from—

Professor Colin Reid, Professor of Environmental Law, University of Dundee;

Professor Gavin Little, Professor of Environmental and Public Law, and Dr Annalisa Savaresi, Lecturer in Environmental Law, University of Stirling;

Jonathan Hall, Director of Policy & Member Services, National Farmers Union Scotland;

Isobel Mercer, Policy Officer, Planning and Development, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;

Andrew Midgley, Projects and Research Manager, Scottish Land & Estates;

Robin Parker, Public Affairs Manager, WWF Scotland;

Daphne Vlastari, Advocacy Manager, Scottish Environment LINK.

John Scott declared an interest as a land owner and member of the National Farmers Union Scotland.

Finlay Carson declared an interest as a member of the National Farmers Union Scotland.

Donald Cameron declared an interest as a land owner, farmer and a member of Scottish Land and Estates.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instrument—

Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/451).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instrument. The Committee also agreed to invite the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy to give evidence to the Committee on the reasoning behind the regulations coming into force sooner than parliamentary procedure normally permits.

4. **Environmental implications for Scotland of the UK leaving the EU (in private):** The Committee considered evidence heard earlier in the meeting and to consider any further actions at a later meeting.

5. **Inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming (in private):** The Committee agreed its approach to the inquiry, specifically:

- the proposed timetable for the inquiry;
- its call for evidence on the inquiry;
- delegating authority to the Convener to agree the media and social media approach;
- delegating authority to the Convener for the approval of witness expenses;
- considering evidence heard on the inquiry in private; and
- the arrangements for the publication of its final correspondence to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.59 pm.

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