



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

4th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 31 January 2018

Present:

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Peter Chapman              | John Finnie                 |
| Jamie Greene               | Richard Lyle                |
| Fulton MacGregor           | John Mason                  |
| Edward Mountain (Convener) | Gail Ross (Deputy Convener) |
| Mike Rumbles               | Colin Smyth                 |

Apologies were received from Stewart Stevenson.

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Scottish Government Digital Strategy:** The Committee took evidence from—  
  
Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Alan Johnston, Head of Connectivity, Economy & Data Division, and Robbie McGhee, Head of Digital Connectivity Policy, Scottish Government.
3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee agreed its work programme.
4. **Aquaculture Inquiry (in private):** The Committee agreed its approach to the inquiry.

Edward Mountain declared an interest as a partner in a wild salmon fishery.

The meeting closed at 12.24 pm.

**REC/S5/18/4/M**

Steve Farrell  
Clerk to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
Tel: 0131 348 5211  
Email: [steve.farrell@parliament.scot](mailto:steve.farrell@parliament.scot)