



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Call for Evidence

Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Bill

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee invites all interested individuals and organisations to submit written views on the [Agriculture \(Retained EU Law and Data\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

If you would like to submit detailed comments on the Bill, please send a written submission on any of the following parts of the Bill.

About the Bill

The Bill is intended to provide the Scottish Ministers with regulation-making powers to amend or replace the European Union (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) elements of retained EU law in Scotland, and to provide new powers for the collection of agricultural data.

Given the enabling nature of the Bill, specific details of the improvements and simplifications of current CAP schemes and policies which may result from the powers proposed in Part 1 of the Bill will be set out in future subordinate legislation.

There are 3 Parts to this Bill. Please give us your views on any or all of these:

Part 1 of the Bill maintains the operation of current CAP schemes, while also enabling the Scottish Ministers to make simplifications and improvements over a transition period of approximately 5 years following the UK's anticipated departure from the EU. Specifically, it enables the Scottish Ministers:

- to simplify and improve the legislation;
- to extend the operation of the CAP legislation beyond 2020;
- to modify financial provision in the legislation and to modify the CMO Regulations for specific purposes;
- to modify CAP legislation in respect of public intervention and private storage aid, and aid for fruit and vegetable producer organisations;
- to revoke the EU Food Promotion Scheme;
- to regulate marketing standards for the agricultural sector and the classification, identification and presentation of carcasses by slaughterhouses.

Part 2 of the Bill provides the legal powers for the Scottish Ministers to be able to collect information from persons carrying out an ‘agricultural activity’ or connected with an ‘agri-food supply chain’. It also provides for the purpose for which such information may be required and processed (including limitations on processing) and a power for the Scottish Ministers to make regulations for the enforcement of information requirements.

Part 3 of the Bill provides for supplementary and ancillary powers.

You can also give your views on the following questions:

- **Human rights, equalities, etc.** Do you have any comments on the impact that the Bill may have in relation to the following:
 - human rights or equalities for any particular group of people?
 - sustainable development?
 - island communities?
- **Any other views:** Do you think the Bill as proposed will achieve its aims? Is there anything else that you feel should be included or excluded from the Bill?

You can give your view on some or all of these questions. Or you can focus your answer on other areas of interest to you or your organisation that are relevant to the Committee’s work on this Bill.

How to submit your views

The call for written views will close on **Friday 3 January 2020**.

Please note that in most cases **your written submission will be published on the Scottish Parliament’s website and may be quoted in any relevant Committee report or correspondence (which are public published documents) or in Committee meetings (which are broadcast in public).**

If you wish to request that your submission be published without your name, please contact us (see contact details below).

Before making a submission, please read our privacy notice about submitting your views to a Committee [Privacy Notice](#). This tells you about how we process your personal data.

Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to: rec.committee@parliament.scot

Hard copy responses may be sent to: *Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, T3.60, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP*

Ideally, responses should be **no more than four sides of A4 in length**.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots or any other language. Due to the time required to process and analyse evidence, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Committee.

Contact

Should you require alternative formats of this information or further assistance in making a written submission to the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the clerking team of the Committee.

For Committee information, contact: Steve Farrell, tel 0131 348 5211, email: rec.committee@parliament.scot

For further information, the media contact is: Baktosch Gillan, tel 0131 348 5383, email: baktosch.gillan@parliament.scot

For general enquiries, contact: 0845 278 1999 (local call rate), email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

Further information on how laws are passed:
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