



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

10th Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)

Wednesday 17 March 2021

Present:

Peter Chapman	John Finnie
Jamie Halcro Johnston	Emma Harper
Richard Lyle	Angus MacDonald
Edward Mountain (Convener)	Colin Smyth
Maureen Watt (Deputy Convener)	

Apologies were received from Mike Rumbles, Stewart Stevenson.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Digital connectivity:** The Committee took evidence from—

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Clive Downing, R100 Programme Director, and Robbie McGhee, Deputy Director, Digital Connectivity, Scottish Government.

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

Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021

Plant Health and Plant Propagating Material (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021.

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instruments.

4. **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:** The Committee considered proposals by the Scottish Government to consent to the UK Government legislating using the powers under the Act in relation to the following UK statutory instrument proposals-

The Common Fisheries Policy (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2021

The Plant Health, Seeds and Seed Potatoes (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Propagating Material and Fodder Plant Seed (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to confirm that it is content for consent to be given to these instrument and, in doing so, to also raise certain related matters.

5. **Legacy paper (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report reflecting on its work during the current session and suggesting priorities for Session 6. The report was agreed for publication, subject to various changes being agreed by correspondence.
6. **Annual report (in private):** The Committee considered a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 13 May 2020 to 24 March 2021. The report was agreed for publication.

The meeting closed at 12.21 pm.

Steve Farrell
Clerk to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5211
Email: steve.farrell@parliament.scot