21st May 2019

Dear Edward,

THE PLANT HEALTH AND VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT ETC.) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS 2019
EU EXIT – PROTOCOL WITH SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

I am writing in relation to the protocol on obtaining the approval of the Scottish Parliament to the exercise of powers by UK Ministers under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 in relation to proposals within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

On 21 May David Rutley, MP, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Food and Animal Welfare wrote to me seeking our agreement to an EU Exit SI in areas that intersect with devolved policy.

Like agriculture, Plant Health is devolved. However, pests do not recognise borders and we therefore work in collaboration with England, Wales and Northern Ireland to maintain the UK's biosecurity. A Notification of Intention to Consent, which sets out the details of the SI and the reasons why I am content that Scottish devolved matters are to be included in this UK SI, is attached.

We are yet to have sight of the final SI, and it is not available in the public domain at this stage. We will, in accordance with the protocol, advise you when the final SI is laid and advise you as to whether the final SI is in keeping with the terms of this notification.

I am copying this letter to the Convener of the Environment, Climate Change & Land reform Committee and the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you within 28 days from the date of this letter

Mairi Gougeon

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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