



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Present:

Claudia Beamish
Finlay Carson
Kate Forbes
Emma Harper
Angus MacDonald

Alexander Burnett
Graeme Dey (Convener)
Maurice Golden (Deputy Convener)
Richard Lyle
Mark Ruskell

Apologies were received from David Stewart.

The meeting opened at 10.20 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.
2. **Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Andrew Voas, Veterinary Adviser, and Angela Lawson, Solicitor, Scottish Government.

Richard Lyle declared an interest as Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on the Scottish Showmen's Guild.

3. **Public petition PE1615:** The Committee considered a petition by Logan Steele, on behalf of the Scottish Raptor Group, on a state regulated licensing system for gamebird hunting in Scotland.

The Committee disagreed (by division: For 0, Against 10, Abstentions 0) to Option 1 to forward the transcript of the evidence session on 18 April 2017 to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform for information and close the petition.

The Committee then agreed (by division: For 6, Against 4, Abstention 0) to Option 2 to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform suggesting that the Scottish Government explore with stakeholders the need for/benefit of such a licensing system, how it might operate in practice, what it might encompass, how it could be appropriately enforced and whether such a system might feasibly be trialled in a specific area as well as note the proposals put forward by Scottish Land & Estates, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the Scottish Moorland Group in a written submission to the Committee dated 19 May 2017; and keep the petition open.

The Committee also disagreed (by division: For 4, Against 5, Abstention 1) to Option 3 to recommend to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform the proposals put forward by Scottish Land & Estates, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the Scottish Moorland Group in a written submission to the Committee dated 19 May 2017 and close the petition.

Alexander Burnett declared an interest in countryside management.

4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and heard from the sub group on deposit return schemes (DRS) in Scotland. It was agreed that any further consideration of a potential inquiry into DRS should follow a wider evidence session on Scotland's waste landscape to fully inform the Committee on the key issues prior to considering any future work on waste management.
5. **Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.02 pm.

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