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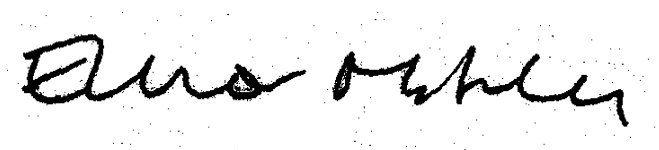
4 September 2017

Dear Ms Marra

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: UPDATE

Please find enclosed the latest monthly report from Scottish Government officials. The report provides information on progress since our last report dated 1 August 2017. As you are aware, Liz Ditchburn, Director General Economy and I are attending the Committee session on 7 Sept and can provide further information on progress at this session.

I have copied this update to the Convener of the REC Committee, Mr Mountain MSP.



Elinor Mitchell

August UPDATE – All figures correct as of 1 September 2017.

2016 Payments

BPS, Greening and Young Farmer

Throughout August we have continued to make payments across Pillar 1 and VCS schemes.

We've now paid over 99%% of our 2016 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Greening and Young Farmer payments; achieved 100%of Voluntary Coupled Support (VCS) beef payments; and just over over 90% of VCS sheep payment. The annex to this note provides detailed information of 2016 payment performance to date.

We have now paid 1,934 Rural Priorities 2016 claims (67% of the claim population) with a total value of £10.65m .

We will continue to process remaining 2016 payments for BPS, Greening, Young Farmer, and SUSSS until these are complete. We remain on track to make LMO, AECS, FGS and BES payments in the autumn, as previously indicated.

LFASS 2015 and 2016

We have approximately 330 LFASS 2015 claims still to make, which we continue to work on and we anticipate being able to make further progress with 2015 payments in September.

We plan to start making significant numbers of LFASS 2016 payments at the end of September and progress further in the autumn.

2016 Basic Payments Scheme Payments (BPS)

Weekly Update, (data captured on Friday 1 September 2017)

BPS application processing	
Number of eligible applications	17,990
This number will fluctuate as applications are processed and some found to be ineligible.	

BPS payments	
Value of payments made (to date)	£ 376.7m
	€ 441.9m
Value of payments made (this week)	£ 6.3m
	€ 7.4m
BRNs whose payments have been processed (to date)	17,509
BRNs whose payments have been processed (this week)	281
<p>The above figures include Basic Payment Scheme, Young Farmers and Greening payments.</p> <p>Payments reported here include those that have been committed to the banking system but may not have arrived in customers' bank accounts yet. This information does not include nationally-funded loans that were paid to over 13,000 businesses.</p>	

VCS payments		
Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme (Mainland)	No. of payments	5769
	Value of payments	£31.95m
Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme (Island)	No. of payments	1243
	Value of payments	£5.5m
Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme	No. of payments	976
	Value of payments	£6.28m