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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
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28th January 2020

Dear Edward,

### **The Official Controls (Agriculture etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2019: SSI 2019/412**

I refer to the Committee's consideration of the above SSI (the 2019 Regulations) at its meeting on 18 December 2019, and in particular Members' concerns that no business and regulatory impact assessment accompanied the Regulations.

These Regulations implement Regulation (EU) 2017/625<sup>1</sup> (the EU Regulation) in respect of official controls and other official activities on genetically modified organisms, animals, animal by-products and derived products. They also repealed and replaced the Official Controls (Animals, Food and Feed) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

As part of the implementation of the EU Regulation, separate instruments were brought forward making provision in respect of official controls relating to food and feed, plants and plant products (the other Official Control SSIs). While impact assessments were carried out for these, it was not considered to be necessary in respect of the 2019 Regulations.

The 2019 Regulations did not introduce any significant changes to current official control practices, nor did they introduce significant policy changes. It was on this basis that an impact assessment was not provided as the implementing provisions contained therein were such that practice of official controls and other activities remains largely unchanged in the sectors covered.

**MAIRI GOUGEON**

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32017R0625>

