



Mr Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

30 January 2020

**THE DIRECT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS (LEGISLATIVE CONTINUITY) (SCOTLAND)
(MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS 2020 - MADE AFFIRMATIVE PROCEDURE**

The above regulations have been made under section 3(3)(a) and (9) of the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act 2020 ("the 2020 Act"). These regulations have been made today, and laid before the Parliament before they come into force at 11pm on 31st January ("exit day").

The regulations have been made using the made affirmative procedure as required by paragraph 2(1) of schedule 2 of the of the 2020 Act. They will cease to have effect at the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which they are made, unless within that period the regulations are approved by a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

As you know, it is critical that Scottish Ministers have a legal basis to make direct payments to Scottish farmers for the scheme year 2020. This instrument is needed to fix deficiencies that would arise in EU-derived domestic SSIs which regulate the direct payments scheme, and will ensure that, following the UK's exit from the EU, our legislation will operate effectively for the 2020 claim year.

The 2020 Act obtained Royal Assent today so I regret that it was not possible to make and lay these regulations earlier.

I am copying this letter to the convener of the DPLR Committee.

FERGUS EWING

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

