



Edward Mountain  
Convener  
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee  
( By email only)

[rec.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rec.committee@parliament.scot)

11 June 2020

Dear Edward,

## **UK SI NOTIFICATIONS**

### **The Direct Payments Ceilings Regulations 2020**

### **The Direct Payments to Farmers (Amendment) Regulations 2020**

Thank you for your letter of 15 May confirming that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee was content for Scottish Ministers to give their consent to the Direct Payments Ceilings Regulations 2020 and the Direct Payments to Farmers (Amendment) Regulations 2020 including Scottish devolved matters, as set out in the notifications to the Parliament.

In your letter you explained that given the Scottish Government have decided that the Bew Review funds will not be included in the direct payments ceilings for the 2020 claim year, the Committee wished to ask the Scottish Government how it intends to spend the Bew monies.

In response, I can advise that no decisions have yet been taken on how the Bew Review funds might be deployed. One key consideration that has emerged is any potential need to support farming and food production to recover from the impact of Covid 19 and I want to be able to factor that into any proposals, alongside any measures we may also need to take to help mitigate against the impacts of Brexit and of course, take forward our climate change ambitions as part of a Green Recovery plan.

I can also advise that I intend to write out to stakeholders to share these considerations but that I will not commit to specific support at this time due to the uncertainty of the impact on the sector. I want to ensure the funding is used to support the areas which need it most.

Once proposals have been developed further, I will of course update Parliament. I hope this information is helpful.



Yours sincerely,



**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](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

