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Mr Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Scottish Parliament

Our ref: REC Committee, 13th Meeting, Wednesday 24 April 2019

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ISLAND COMMUNITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Thank you for your question regarding the lack of an Island Communities Impact Assessment for the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2019.

There is currently no Island Communities Impact Assessment in place. A consultation on the "[National Islands Plan and islands communities impact assessment guidance](#)" was published on 05 April 2019 and closes on 06 July 2019.

In the interim the available guidance requests engagement with island stakeholders and to consider the impact of policy decisions where they are considered likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities and to include a statement in the policy note when appropriate.

We did not consider this to be the case for the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2019 as the changes to payment rates are to ensure compliance with EU regulations and are applicable across the less favoured area. Island communities continue to receive the highest available payment rates as they are classified as being in very fragile areas.

Information on the consultations that took place was provided within the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment which included representation from island community stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

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