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and Culture Committee
By email: CEEAC.Committee@parliament.scot

8th February 2024

Dear Convener

FIRST BI-ANNUAL SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REUL ACT UPDATE

I write further to the publication on 22 January 2024 of the first UK Government statutory report under section 17 of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and your letter of 30 January confirming agreement to working arrangements for bi-annual Scottish Government updates in relation to that Act. I welcome that that letter also confirms agreement to working arrangements on scrutiny of the UK EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

In my letter of 9 August 2023 responding to the Committee's 8 June 2023 report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum for the then REUL Bill I indicated that update proposals for Scotland should be useful, proportionate and sustainable taking into account the context that Scottish Ministers do not share UK Ministers' deregulatory and divergent agenda. That agenda has been made quite clear in the UK Government's report, including a new ambition to revoke or reform half of all assimilated law (formerly known as retained EU law) by June 2026.

I consider that the first Scottish Government update appended to this letter meets the aims mentioned and demonstrates that Scottish Ministers' policy for the future treatment of assimilated law is grounded in our alignment policy, and thus seeks to protect the vital safeguards and high standards Scotland benefitted from as part of the European Union. I look forward to Committee scrutiny of the material provided.

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Further updates will be sent bi-annually in 2024, 2025 and 2026 with reporting periods to 23 December and 23 June respectively.

Yours sincerely

ANGUS ROBERTSON

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FIRST BI-ANNUAL SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REUL ACT UPDATE (FEBRUARY 2024)

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1. Ministerial Foreword

I welcome the opportunity to update the Scottish Parliament's Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on the Scottish Government's position on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("REUL Act"⁽¹⁾) now it is law and, as of 1 January 2024, largely in force⁽²⁾.

This update follows the first UK Government report on the REUL Act published on 22 January 2022 ("UK report")⁽³⁾. The UK report leaves no doubt that UK Ministers' are committed to deregulation and divergence from EU laws. This risks a race to the bottom in standards, potentially removing 47 years' worth of progress on environmental protection, workers' rights, food safety, animal welfare, consumer protection and much else. This deregulatory and divergent agenda undermines devolution since the Act was passed without the agreement of the Scottish Parliament. Moreover, the REUL Act gives UK Ministers a number of power to remove or change laws in devolved areas with no requirement to obtain the consent of the Scottish Ministers or the Scottish Parliament. It is of concern that nothing in the UK report mentions the need for devolved institutions to be involved in decisions about the future treatment of devolved assimilated law (the new name for retained EU law).

The Scottish Government Programme for Government 2023-24⁽⁴⁾ committed the Government to challenging where we can, given our limited powers, attempts by the UK Government to use the REUL Act to legislate for lower standards. The low number of UK Statutory Instrument proposals consented to – as set out in Section 4 at the core of this update - demonstrates that the Scottish Government will not support UK Government REUL Act proposals that impair vital standards and protections. In this regard the UK Government's ambition to revoke or reform half of all assimilated law by June 2026 is arbitrary and ideological, and does not indicate respect for devolution.

The essential policy difference between the UK and Scottish Governments is that Scottish Ministers have no agenda to revoke or reform assimilated law simply because it is the law that was retained from the period of the UK's membership of the EU. Therefore the Scottish Government has no revocation and reform programme, and this update has been shaped

(1) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/28/contents>

(2) Some commencements were fixed by section 22 of the REUL Act and others were prescribed by the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1363).

(3) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/retained-eu-law-reul-parliamentary-report>

(4) <https://www.gov.scot/programme-for-government/>

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accordingly. The Scottish Government considers that any case for reforming devolved assimilated law is best progressed through the ordinary Scottish Parliament legislative processes, which build in time for consultation with stakeholders and consideration of impact assessments, and which enhance parliamentary scrutiny.

A recent Department for Business and Trade consultation outcome report disclosed that when invited to support a return to imperial units of measurement, a mere 1.3% of respondents were in favour of increased use of imperial units when buying or selling products. In other words, the consultation exercise disclosed significant levels of public and industry support for the continuation of assimilated law on metric units of measurements.

As this update makes clear, the Scottish Government's guiding star is our alignment policy which commits us to remaining aligned with EU law where possible and meaningful. This update therefore complements the statutory reporting process under the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021. I commend this update not only to the Committee and Parliament but to the many stakeholders who have an interest in the future treatment of assimilated law and whose views are always welcomed by my Ministerial colleagues and I.

2. Introduction

Assimilated law is the new name for the law that was retained from the period of the UK's membership of the European Union ("EU"). Assimilated law gives a 'snapshot' of EU law as it previously applied (with some exceptions, like free movement rights) before the UK ceased to be subject to EU law. Assimilated law is classed as domestic law and can be changed or updated like other UK laws.

The REUL Act, which was imposed without the legislative consent of the Scottish Parliament and which remains opposed by the Scottish Government, also changed the status of EU law and its effect domestically, including removing certain directly effective rights and inverting the supremacy REUL had over other domestic law. The REUL Act also includes a schedule identifying around 600 items of (then) REUL that were, with some exceptions as described in this report, revoked or "sunset" at the end of 2023.

The first UK Government report on the REUL Act published on 22 January 2022 highlights that the Brexit agreements between the UK and the European Union empowered devolved legislatures to decide whether, how, and to what extent, domestic law and policy should then diverge from that of the EU. In the Scottish Government's view the REUL Act upsets that position significantly by providing UK Ministers with sweeping powers to revoke, restate and replace devolved assimilated law without the consent of the Scottish Government or the Scottish Parliament. There is also no requirement for advance notice of or consultation on UK Government proposals.

This is the first Scottish Government update in a bi-annual series of updates that will follow the bi-annual UK Government reports that will be published each January and July in 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Scottish Government has agreed with the Scottish Parliament's Constitution, External Affairs and Culture that Scottish updates should be sent each February

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and September in 2024, 2025 and 2026. This honours a commitment made by the Scottish Government in a letter to the Committee of 8 August 2023⁽⁵⁾.

Scottish updates adopt the same reporting periods as the respective UK reports, which for this first update is June to December 2023. Whilst the structure of this update aims to be recognisable to the structure of the UK report, the UK report discusses a number of policy matters that are reserved or that otherwise fall outside of devolved competence. This update focuses on policy matters within devolved competence and thus reflects the August 2023 ambition of an update arrangement that is useful, proportionate and sustainable taking into account the context that Scottish Ministers do not share UK Ministers' deregulatory and divergent agenda.

In this update, the terminology of "assimilated law" is used consistently in place of "retained EU law" in line with the now prevailing legal position. In the Scottish Government's view the change of terminology was ideologically driven and potentially introduces confusion to an already complex legal landscape. However, the changes took effect at the end of 2023 and could not be prevented by Devolved Governments.

3. Scottish Government policy for future treatment of devolved assimilated law

On 31 October 2024 the Scottish Government laid the in draft the Annual Report under the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 ("Continuity Act") for the reporting period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023⁽⁶⁾. This is being followed by the finalised statutory report now that the requisite statutory consultation period had expired. The draft Continuity Act report emphasises the Government's ongoing commitment to continue to seek alignment with the EU where appropriate – that means where it is possible and meaningful to do so. The draft annual report includes additional reporting, reflecting our new processes to improve the transparency of ministerial decision-making in implementing our approach to EU alignment.

Given our commitment to maintaining alignment with EU law and the high standards that Scotland enjoyed as part of the EU, the Scottish Government cannot support the UK Government's deregulatory and divergent agenda for the future treatment of assimilated law, as set out in the first UK Government REUL Act report. In particular, the ambition to revoke or reform half of all assimilated law by June 2026 cannot be supported, not least since this does not indicate respect for devolution. The Scottish Government notes that the UK Government maintains a REUL Act Revocation and Reform Programme in the Department for Business and Trade to coordinate and drive activity across UK Government Departments.

The Scottish Government confirms that it has no ambition to revoke or reform assimilated law simply because it is the law that was retained from the period of the UK's membership of the EU. It follows that the Scottish Government has no REUL Act Revocation and Reform Programme, and this update has been shaped accordingly.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-constitution-europe-external-affairs-and-culture-committee/correspondence/2023/update-and-response-to-supplementary-legislative-consent-memorandum-slcm-report>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/constitution-europe-external-affairs-and-culture-committee/correspondence/2023/eu-alignment-cover-letter-and-annual-reports.pdf>

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The Scottish Government recognises that there may be particular cases for reforming particular assimilated law and in the medium to longer term devolved assimilated law will need to be reformed and updated so that there is alignment with new EU standards. The Continuity Act is one means by which the Scottish Government can maintain alignment with new EU law, to the extent devolved competence allows.

From a wider regulatory perspective, work is ongoing to deliver the Scottish Government's commitments under the New Deal for Business⁽⁷⁾ and Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation⁽⁸⁾. These include improving how we engage with businesses and other stakeholders to improve the processes by which regulations and policy are considered, developed and implemented. The Better Regulation approach expects that regulation is transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted where appropriate. While we have no deregulatory focus, we have committed to providing a process by which businesses can raise regulations which they no longer feel are necessary for Ministers to consider. This will cover assimilated law in the same way as all other relevant regulations. To support the improved development and implementation of regulations, we have relaunched the Regulatory Review Group⁽⁹⁾ to provide advice to officials and Ministers.

Whilst the Scottish Government considers that any case for reforming devolved assimilated law is best progressed through the ordinary Scottish Parliament legislative processes, the Government also recognises that UK Parliament legislative vehicles may from time to time be acceptable, and compatible with the alignment policy, in particular cases where proposals are consented to by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government has recognised the value of Common Frameworks as intergovernmental mechanisms for collaboration and co-operation on regulatory policy in a devolved UK, in a manner that respects devolution. In this regard it is of concern that the UK report makes only incidental reference to the important role of Common Frameworks, which does not indicate respect for devolution in the UK Government's implementation of the REUL Act.

The Scottish Government therefore gives case-by-case consideration to individual UK Government SI proposals affecting assimilated law, whether proposed to be made under the REUL Act or under other enabling powers. This is handled under the Statutory Instrument Protocol with the Scottish Parliament and experience to date has demonstrated that these pre-existing arrangements are workable for handling REUL Act proposals⁽¹⁰⁾. The low number of UK SI proposals consented to – as set out in following Section 4 of this update - demonstrates that the Scottish Government will not support UK REUL Act proposals that impair vital standards and protections. Whilst as mentioned the Scottish Government does not have a REUL Act Programme function comparable to the UK Government's Programme function, a Scottish Government Project function has been created to engage with the UK Programme function and the other Devolved Governments for their REUL Act interests.

The Scottish Government strongly and consistently advocated the position that we expect any UK SIs affecting devolved areas made under the REUL Act to be subject to the consent of the Scottish Ministers and appropriate scrutiny of consent decisions by the Scottish Parliament; and with meaningful time afforded for that. This is a vital democratic safeguard

(7) <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-deal-business-group-report-progress-recommendations-implementation-plan/>

(8) <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-strategy-economic-transformation/>

(9) <https://www.gov.scot/groups/regulatory-review-group/>

(10) <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/statutory-instrument-protocol.pdf>

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which ensures that the Scottish Parliament has the opportunity to scrutinise, and hold to account, executive power in devolved areas.

A central aspect of the UK Government’s REUL Act Revocation and Reform Programme is its web published “dashboard”⁽¹¹⁾ of individual measures comprising assimilated law. The Scottish Government welcomes that as of 22 January 2024 the explanatory material for the dashboard clarifies that the UK Government has not inputted to date, and will not input, legislation made by the devolved institutions in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales. For Scotland this means that the dashboard should include assimilated law in the form of pre-devolution UK SIs for Scotland, irrespective of whether provision within them is reserved or devolved, but the dashboard will not include assimilated law in the form of SSIs.

Given the Scottish Government’s alignment policy and that it has no deregulatory or divergent agenda for the future treatment of devolved assimilated law, the Scottish Government does not propose to publish an equivalent resource to the UK dashboard. The Scottish Government does not consider that preparing a list of Scottish devolved assimilated law would be useful given there is no ideological revocation or reform agenda, and in any event such work would be a distraction from the pressing need to tackle the cost of living and other priority Scottish Government work.

4. REUL Act secondary legislation in reporting period

This update now sets out relevant instruments for the reporting period ending December 2023. The following tables are presented in a broadly similar style to the table headed “Progress with revocations and reforms” in the UK report.

REUL Act Scottish Statutory Instruments (“SSIs”) made in the reporting period

SSI in order made	Detail
(i) The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/374) (made 7 December 2023, having been laid in draft 18 October 2023)	Replaced references to retained EU law terminology with assimilated law terminology in the devolved statute book, and updated one "EU obligation" reference accordingly ⁽¹²⁾ .
(ii) The Importation of Animals and Related Products (Miscellaneous Amendment and Revocation) (Scotland) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/391) (made 21 December 2023) This SSI was not made under the REUL Act but was made with the primary purpose of directly handling REUL Act changes that	Amended certain orders made or having effect under the Animal Health Act 1981 which prohibit the importation of animals and animal-related products except under the authority of a licence, in order to clarify and restate the pre-2024 application of these orders as they were affected by the abolition (inversion) of supremacy and other

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/retained-eu-law-dashboard>

⁽¹²⁾ On this SSI the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution and External Affairs commented, “The range of policy areas that the SSI touches on—from aquaculture and fisheries to waste management—shows the potential of the REUL act to affect the full panoply of devolved competences.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/CEEAC-16-11-2023?meeting=15555&iob=132736>

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took effect on 1 January 2024. Any further such instruments will be reported on in future updates as if REUL Act SSIs.	REUL Act changes; and made associated revocations.
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REUL Act UK Statutory Instruments (“SIs”) notified in the reporting period

SI in order notified	Detail
<p>(i) Notification on the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (Amendment) Regulations 2023 Scottish Parliament Website (sent 31 August 2023)</p> <p>The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1161) (made 30 October 2023, having been laid in draft on 4 September 2023)</p>	Corrected a technical error in dates in Regulation 517/2014 which required to be corrected by 31 October 2023.
<p>(ii) Notification on the Plant Protection Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2023 (revised version sent 26 September 2023, original notification date having been 4 September 2023)</p> <p>The Plant Protection Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/1321) (made 6 December 2023, having been laid in draft 25 October 2023)</p>	Revoked and replaced Article 52 of Regulation 1107/2009 in relation to parallel trade permits and modified domestic regulations to extend the maximum period during which treated seeds not authorised for use in GB, but authorised in another EU or EEA state immediately before IP completion day, may be placed on the market from 1 January 2023 to 1 July 2027.
<p>(iii) Notification on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Revocation and Sunset Disapplication) Regulations 2023 (sent 5 September 2023)</p> <p>The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Revocation and Sunset Disapplication) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1143) (made 25 October 2023, having been laid in draft 4 September 2023)</p>	Only the preservation (“sunset disapplication”) element engaged devolved competence. Preserved devolved biocidal products instruments but did not preserve devolved air pollution instruments as formally requested by the Scottish Government. The latter instruments were therefore revoked (“sunset”) at the end of 2023 by virtue of schedule 1 of the REUL Act.
<p>(iv) Notification on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act (Consequential Amendment) Regulations 2023 (sent 7 September 2023)</p> <p>The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential</p>	Replaced references to retained EU law terminology with assimilated law terminology in Acts of the UK Parliament. Also made consequential amendments to UK Acts to reflect the repeal by the REUL Act of section 4 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the abolition the general principles of EU law.

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<p>Amendment) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1424) (made 19 December 2023)</p>	
<p>(v) Notification on the Public Service Obligations in Transport Regulations 2023 (sent 8 September 2023)</p> <p>The Public Service Obligations in Transport Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1369) (made 11 December 2023, having been laid in draft 16 October 2023)</p>	<p>Revoked and replaced Regulation 1370/2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road, reinstating powers to make direct awards of UK rail PSO contracts which were due to expire on 25 December 2023 under a sunset provision in the Regulation.</p>
<p>(vi) Notification on the Heavy Goods Vehicles (Charging for the Use of Certain Infrastructure on the Trans-European Road Network) (Revocation and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2023 (sent 18 October 2023)</p> <p>SI has not yet been laid in draft.</p>	<p>Would revoke certain regulations and make minor amendments in consequence. The Regulations would have no immediate practical impact given that there are no devolved tolls or charges currently in place in Scotland. Following EU exit, the UK is no longer part of the trans-European road network.</p>
<p>(vii) Notification on the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Saving Provision Regulations 2023 (sent 9 November 2023)</p> <p>The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Saving Provision) Regulations 2023 (SI 2023/1395) (made 14 December 2023)</p>	<p>Re-saved saving provision made at EU Exit to ensure that the 2007 Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, a private international law agreement, can continue to apply to certain legacy cases.</p>
<p>(viii) Notification on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (sent 12 December 2023)</p> <p>The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Provision) Regulations 2024 (SI 2024/80) (made 23 January 2024, laid 24 January 2024)</p>	<p>Amended or revoked UK SIs to reflect the repeal by the REUL Act of section 4 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, and replaced references to retained EU law terminology with assimilated law terminology in some of the SIs being amended.</p>

All listed SIs are referenced in the UK report as reforms progressed, except SI (vi) which is referenced under forthcoming reforms and SI (viii) which was laid outside of the reporting period⁽¹³⁾. Common Frameworks were applicable to SIs (i), (ii) and (iii) as described in the respective notification documents.

With regards to the section of the UK report headed “Preservation of Section 4 Rights”, confusion may be caused since the relevant rights were revoked by section 2 of the REUL Act, as part of a package of changes to the status of EU law as follows:

⁽¹³⁾ SI (viii) is listed together with other REUL Act SIs at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reul-revocation-and-reform-act-2023-statutory-instruments> .

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- the sunset of certain directly effective rights (section 2 of the REUL Act);
- the abolition (inversion) of the supremacy of EU law (section 3 of the REUL Act); and
- the abolition of the general principles of EU law (section 4 of the REUL Act).

The Scottish Government carried out work to assess the implications of these changes to the status of EU law on devolved matters and made SSI (ii) in consequence of section 3 of the REUL Act. The Scottish Government consented to SI (vii) in consequence of section 2 of the REUL Act (“section 4 rights” in UK report terminology) and also SIs (iv) and (viii) which were consequential rather than substantive in nature.

The Scottish Government agrees with the UK Government that the impacts of the package of changes mentioned need to be kept under review, and will continue engaging with the UK Government and Devolved Governments in that regard.

5. Forward look on Scottish Government assimilated law reform proposals

The UK report contains a section headed “Forthcoming REUL (now known as assimilated law) reforms” – this represents the UK Government’s Revocation and Reform Programme. The list of proposed revocations and reforms does not make clear to what extent proposals extend to Scotland or whether the UK Government considers them reserved or devolved. Scottish Government Directorates and Agencies are actively working with UK Government Departments to better understand these proposals and establish which proposals engage devolved competence and, in such cases, to what extent they are acceptable in policy terms to the Scottish Government. As mentioned, the Scottish Government will approach this task on a case-by-case basis under the overarching alignment policy.

Where UK Government proposals appear acceptable in principle to the Scottish Government, the respective Scottish Parliament Committee will be notified in line with the Statutory Protocol mentioned at Section 3 above. It is possible therefore that the second bi-annual REUL Act update for 2024 that follows this first February 2024 update will confirm notifications sent for some of the proposals in the UK report.

In terms of proposals for SSIs, the Scottish Government has no plans to use REUL Act powers to alter policy. The notification for SI (viii) in Section 4 above confirms that the Scottish Government will consider making further technical, consequential amendments to those made by SSI (i) in that Section. More generally, the Scottish Government reiterates that it has no Revocation and Reform Programme and the overarching alignment policy will apply to all SSIs that engage assimilated law. The Scottish Government is already, through the Continuity Act statutory reporting process, giving indications as to where alignment with new EU law is under consideration, which could result in substantive reforms to assimilated law in future reporting periods.

The Scottish Government can confirm that the following assimilated law reform proposals are currently subject to consultation exercises (in these case it happens joint consultation exercises with the UK Government):

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- Consultation on removing the 16-week derogation period in egg marketing standards legislation in England and Scotland (closing 5 March 2024)⁽¹⁴⁾
- Call for evidence on reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electricals 2023 (closing 7 March 2024)⁽¹⁵⁾
- Consultation on reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment 2023 (closing 7 March 2024)⁽¹⁶⁾

The Scottish Government welcomes stakeholder views on these live consultation exercises.

In terms of primary legislation, the Scottish Government's Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill⁽¹⁷⁾ proposes bespoke delegated powers, tailored for devolved assimilated law for the Common Agriculture Policy, that build on existing provisions in the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020. These proposals are under Stage 1 Bill process scrutiny and future REUL Act updates will report on progress, should the Scottish Parliament agree to the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1 as the Scottish Government hopes.

In the Scottish Government's view the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill demonstrates why the REUL Act is not needed in Scotland; where there is a particular case for reforming particular assimilated law, the ordinary Scottish legislative processes will be available.

The Scottish Government is committed to transparency in its management of devolved assimilated law in the periods between REUL Act updates. In terms of SSIs, a statutory requirement under paragraph 16 of schedule 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 continues to apply, placing a requirement on Scottish Ministers for certain statements to be made in relation to SSIs which amend secondary legislation made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, irrespective of the power that they are being made under. This requirement – which has been repealed for UK SIs - signals to the Scottish Parliament where new secondary legislation changes assimilated law in the form of 1972 Act SIs.

Lastly, in terms of pre-legislative steps, Committees will often receive notice of Scottish Government consultations at the point of publication and this would include consultations proposing reform of assimilated law. At official level, Scottish Government officials will continue to provide forward look information on REUL Act instruments, as they do on other instruments, to Committee clerks.

6. Next Report

The Scottish Government proposes to send the second REUL Act update in September 2024 in respect of instruments to June 2024, and the approach to that update will be

⁽¹⁴⁾ <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ahdb-relationship-team/consultation-on-removing-the-16-week-derogation-pe/>

⁽¹⁵⁾ <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/product-regulation-and-producer-responsibility/call-for-evidence-on-reforming-the-producer-respon/>

⁽¹⁶⁾ <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/product-regulation-and-producer-responsibility/consultation-on-reforming-the-producer-responsibil/>

⁽¹⁷⁾ <https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/agriculture-and-rural-communities-scotland-bill/overview>

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informed by scrutiny of this first report. The second report will include reports on SIs notified ahead of the sending of this update but which are outside of the first reporting period, to December 2023.

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