



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,
Food & Environment
Scottish Government
St Andrews House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

All correspondence c/o:
Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5220
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
Fax: 0131 348 6467
justice.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

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Dear Richard

Agricultural crime

On 24 February, the Justice Committee held a round-table evidence session on agricultural crime, including the theft of farming equipment, fuel, tools and livestock, which appears to be a growing problem across rural areas of Scotland. This session focused on the following key areas:

- the extent and cost of the problem to the farming community
- the extent to which those who commit these crimes are opportunists or involved in organised crime
- the impact these crimes have on victims and farming businesses
- how the farming community and the police are tackling this problem, e.g. what security measures they are putting in place, and
- any barriers to detection and prosecution.

I note that the Solicitor General yesterday announced a review of agricultural crime prosecution policy, following the Committee's round-table session which, I am sure, will be welcomed by witnesses who attended.

At its meeting yesterday, the Committee agreed to write to both you and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, seeking details of the steps being taken by the Scottish Government to address the problem of agricultural crime. I attach a link to the official report of the meeting which provides more detail of the issues raised at last week's meeting:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9796&mode=pdf>

I would be grateful for your response by 14 April 2015. A joint response would of course be acceptable if this is more convenient for you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Grahame', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the start of the signature.

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener of the Justice Committee