



RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

c/o Clerk to the Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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15 November 2013

Dear Secretary of State,

Appearance before the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

As you know, you are currently scheduled to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee on 12 March 2014, on the Common Agricultural Policy reforms and other issues in your portfolio of relevance and interest to Scotland.

However, given the recent announcement made by the UK Government on the allocation of the UK's CAP budget across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, the Committee unanimously agreed at its meeting of 13 November 2013 to seek an earlier meeting with you to discuss matters.

As you will recall, the Committee was firmly of the view that the uplift in the UK's CAP budget, received as a direct result of convergence due to Scotland's historic and current low rate of per hectare payments, should come to Scotland in its entirety. Indeed, a letter to this effect was also sent to you, signed on a cross-party basis by the Scottish National Party, the Scottish Labour Party, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrat Party.

Now that details of the UK's CAP budget allocation have been announced, the Committee would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you, as a matter of urgency, and have agreed that the scheduled session on 12 March 2014 would be too late to enable meaningful discussions to take place.

We therefore would be grateful if your office could liaise with the Clerks to the Committee (contact details above) to arrange an appearance before the Committee before the end of this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Rob Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Rob Gibson MSP
Convener