

Ministear airson na h-Àrainneachd agus Atharrachadh Aimsir
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
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Rob Gibson MSP
Convenor
Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Rob

I am writing in response to questions from Committee members at the meeting of 11 December 2013 to consider the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Modification) Order 2013.

First, Jim Hume asked about putting aside provision for dealing with an animal disease outbreak. It is impossible to predict with any certainty when there will be an outbreak, or how severe it will be. Consequently, if there were to be an outbreak Scottish Ministers will, in the first instance, seek to manage any additional costs from within existing budgets, redeploying savings from elsewhere within the Scottish Government as appropriate. Where that is not possible, Scottish Ministers can seek access to the HM Treasury Reserve on the basis of the rules set out in the [Statement of Funding Policy](#). Funding may also be available from the EU to cover specific costs incurred during an outbreak of certain notifiable diseases e.g. foot and mouth disease; in general terms it is possible to recover of up to 50% (60% in the case of foot and mouth disease) of the costs incurred.

Second, I agreed to let the Committee know about rights of way and how these might be closed temporarily for events. Many types of rights of way are considered to be "roads" for the purposes of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and temporary closures can be carried out under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Further information is included in this Scottish Natural Heritage guidance [A Brief Guide to Laws relevant to Outdoor Access in Scotland](#),

I hope this is helpful.

Kindest regards

PAUL WHEELHOUSE