



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Aileen McLeod MSP
Minister for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: (0131) 348 5221

e-mail:

racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

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Dear Aileen

Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/338)

The Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee considered the above named instrument at its meeting on 17 December 2014 and agreed to write to you to seek reassurance that the needs of, and impacts on, a wide range of groups and individuals are considered in the drafting of such SSIs and relevant accompanying documentation. In particular, the Committee believes it may be useful for the needs of those who grow plants, and the possible impacts on those who undertake fair trade activities, to be considered when drafting secondary legislation in this area.

For reference, the relevant extract of the Official Report is reproduced in the Annexe to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Rob Gibson MSP
Convener

EXTRACT FROM THE RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, 17 DECEMBER 2014

Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/338)

The Convener: Agenda item 3 is consideration of nine negative instruments. Members should note that no motion to annul has been received in relation to them. I refer members to their papers. Members should indicate if they have any comments on any of the instruments, as I intend to deal with them en bloc.

Michael Russell: I do not want to delay the committee dealing with the instruments en bloc; I simply want to make a point about the Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/338). Little, if any, attention seems to have been paid in that SSI to the rights and needs of those who produce the plants. From going through the list, it is clear that there are people who do so who undertake fair trade activities, for example. I hope that at least some consideration is given to the impact of the fees on those who perhaps need some help and might not get it as a result of a blanket list of fees being applied. That is not a matter of annulment, but I hope that, if ministers read and consider the Official Report of the meeting, they will consider the impact on others of such regulations.

The Convener: Are you suggesting that we write to the ministers?

Michael Russell: It would be useful to draw attention to the fact that it might be helpful to consider wider issues in any covering documentation with such an SSI, such as the needs of those who grow plants.

Graeme Dey: I absolutely endorse that. We should write to the ministers, particularly about the fair trade aspect, as the Government and the country have taken a strong position on that. We want to be reassured that such things are considered in the drafting of SSIs.

The Convener: Okay. We agree that we will write to the ministers about SSI 2014/338. Do members agree that we wish to make no comments on the instruments, other than SSI 2014/338, and therefore that we are happy for them to be passed?

Members indicated agreement.