



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Stewart Maxwell MSP
Convener
Education and Culture Committee

c/o Clerk to the Committee
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Dear Stewart

Re: RACCE Committee evidence session with SRUC – Scotland's Rural College

I am writing to inform you that the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee ("the Committee") will be undertaking an oral evidence session with the Chair and Strategic Management Board of the SRUC on Wednesday 25 November 2015. The focus of this session will be to consider the issues relating to the corporate governance and strategic direction of the SRUC, and its role in delivering key services to Scotland's rural economy. We are also seeking to understand why the SRUC's proposed strategic alignment with the University of Edinburgh failed to go ahead.

As you know, the SRUC plays an integral role in the education and training of Scotland's agriculture sector, as well as providing a range of research facilities and other services which support Scotland's rural economy. The efficient and successful delivery of SRUC services is, therefore, of vital interest to a successful rural economy in Scotland and the communities which that economy supports.

I am aware that your Committee is currently considering the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1, and that the SRUC has made a submission to you on that Bill. Therefore I wanted to make you aware of this session. I will ensure a copy of the Official Report transcript of the meeting is sent to you for information.

Yours sincerely

Rob Gibson MSP
Convener

cc: Terry Shevlin, Clerk to the Committee