



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Richard Lochhead MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food  
and Environment

Scottish Government

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17 December 2015

Dear Cabinet Secretary

### EU ban on neonicotinoids

In June 2013, the Committee wrote to the then UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP seeking information on various issues relating to the use of neonicotinoids.<sup>1</sup> The Secretary of State responded in July 2013.<sup>2</sup> This followed the Secretary of State's appearance before the Committee on 12 June 2013.

As you know, in December 2013 the European Commission imposed an EU-wide ban on the use of certain types of neonicotinoids as insecticides for the protection of crops. We note that in mid-2015 the UK Government announced a temporary relaxing of this ban in England, for a period of 120 days, for use on a proportion of oilseed rape crop.

This being the case, I am writing to seek an update from you on what discussions you, and Scottish Government officials, have had with the UK Government in relation to the use of neonicotinoids and the UK Government's current approach to the EU ban. The Committee would welcome a reply from you on this matter by Friday 5 February 2016.

Yours sincerely

Rob Gibson MSP  
Convener

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to the UK Secretary of State for EFRA 17 June 2013  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/2013.06.17\\_-\\_Letter\\_to\\_Owen\\_Paterson.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/2013.06.17_-_Letter_to_Owen_Paterson.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Response from the UK Secretary of State for EFRA on 17 July 2013  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/2013.07.17\\_-\\_Follow\\_up\\_letter\\_from\\_Secretary\\_of\\_State.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/2013.07.17_-_Follow_up_letter_from_Secretary_of_State.pdf)