



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

16th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Wednesday 28 May 2014

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3).

1. **Land Reform Review Group final report:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Dr Alison Elliot, Chair, John Watt, Vice Chair, Ian Cooke, Vice Chair, and Pip Tabor, Vice Chair, Land Reform Review Group.

2. **Public Bodies Consent:** The Committee will consider a Scottish Government memorandum relating to the Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014 [draft].
3. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 11 May 2013 to 10 May 2014.

Lynn Tullis
Clerk to the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 1

Note by the Clerk

RACCE/S4/14/16/1

PRIVATE PAPER

RACCE/S4/14/16/1a
(P)

Agenda item 2

Note by the Clerk

RACCE/S4/14/16/2

Agenda item 3

Note by the Clerk

RACCE/S4/14/16/3

The Land Reform Review Group

Background

1. In Session 3, the previous Rural Affairs and Environment Committee commissioned a report¹ from the Centre for Mountain Studies on all parts of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003; access, community right-to-buy, and crofting community right-to-buy.
2. The current Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee subsequently held an evidence session², on 21 September 2011, with the authors of the resulting final report. Following this session, the Committee sent a letter³ to the Scottish Government summarising its views on these matters. The Scottish Government responded⁴ to the Committee's letter, and indicated that it intended to carry out a review of the 2003 Act, which would be carried out by a working group to be established in 2012.

Establishment of the Land Reform Review Group

3. On 24 July 2012 the Scottish Government announced that it was setting up a Land Reform Review Group that it said "will oversee a wide ranging review of land reform in Scotland." The group was initially chaired by Dr Alison Elliot, with Professor James Hunter and Dr Sarah Skerratt as vice-chairs. A further ten advisers⁵ were also appointed.
4. The Scottish Government outlined the group as follows—

"It is anticipated that the Land Reform Review Group will report in a series of stages to Scottish Ministers, providing consideration of what the outcomes of land reform should be and what reforms are required. By the end of 2013 the Scottish Government would expect a report on any legislative changes that are required to allow this to be taken forward."

¹ Centre for Mountain Studies (September 2010) Post Legislative Scrutiny of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Final Report. Available at:

<http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/rae/documents/Inquiryplanningsheet.pdf>.

² Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, *Official Report*, 21 September 2011. Available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6679&mode=pdf>.

³ Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, letter to the Scottish Government. Available at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/Letter to Scottish Government re Ag Tenancy issues 2012_09_20\(1\).pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/Letter%20to%20Scottish%20Government%20re%20Ag%20Tenancy%20issues%202012%2009%2020(1).pdf).

⁴ Scottish Government response to the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. Available at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/Letter to RACCE Committee - Imple of the Land Reform \(S\) Act 2003. 2012_03_06.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/Letter%20to%20RACCE%20Committee%20-%20Imple%20of%20the%20Land%20Reform%20(S)%20Act%202003%202012%2003%2006.pdf).

⁵ Land Reform Review Advisers. Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Review/land-reform/Advisors>.

RACCE scrutiny of the Land Reform Review Group

5. In agreeing its forward work programme at its meeting on 12 September 2012, the Committee agreed to monitor the work of the Land Reform Review Group, and invite its Chair and Vice-Chairs to give evidence to the Committee on progress at appropriate times. The Committee also sent the Group a copy of its work to date on land reform issues.

6. The first of these sessions, which was an initial session on the remit of the group, took place on 26 September 2012. Chair, Dr Alison Elliot and one of the then two Vice Chairs, Professor James Hunter, gave evidence to the Committee outlining progress on the establishment of the Group, its remit, and its programme of operation.

7. The two original Vice-Chairs of the Group resigned – Professor James Hunter and Dr Sarah Skerratt. Three new Vice-Chairs were appointed: Ian Cooke, Dr John Watt, and Pip Tabor. Robin Callander was also added to the Group as a special adviser.

8. At its meeting on 26 June 2013⁶, the Committee held its second evidence session with the Group, taking evidence from the Chair, Dr Alison Elliot, and special adviser, Robin Callander.

9. On 20 May 2013, the Group published its Interim Report, along with an analysis of consultation responses received, and copies of both of these documents can be accessed at this link—

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Review/landreform/CallforEvidence/InterimReportLRRG>

10. The Group will publish its final report⁷ on Friday 23rd May at 9.30am.

11. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Group will give evidence to the Committee on its final report on 28 May 2014. This will be followed with evidence from a roundtable of stakeholders on 4 June, and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 11 June 2014. The Committee will then consider a draft letter to the Scottish Government on its views on the report at its meetings on 18 and 25 June, before publishing its letter before the start of the summer recess 2014.

Clerks and SPICe

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

⁶ Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, *Official Report*, 26 June 2013. Available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8362&mode=pdf>.

⁷ The Land Reform Review Group final report – ‘The Land of Scotland and the Common Good’. Available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00451087.pdf>

Public Bodies Act Consent Memorandum cover note

Title of Instrument: Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014 [draft].

Type of Instrument: UK Statutory Instrument

Laid Date: 7 May 2014

Circulated to Members: 7 May 2014

Meeting Date: 28 May 2014

Minister to attend the meeting: No

Drawn to the Parliament's attention by Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: No

Procedure

1. The procedure for consideration of this instrument varies slightly from that used when considering a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM). Usually a LCM is lodged when minor changes are being made to a Bill in the UK Parliament which have relatively minor provision on devolved matters. However in this case, the change is being introduced via a statutory instrument in the UK Parliament which requires the consent of the Scottish Parliament.

2. The issue is that the Scotland's consent requirement in section (9)(1)(a) applies because this order makes provision which would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were contained in an Act of the Parliament.

Recommendation

3. The Committee is invited to agree whether to recommend to the Parliament that the draft motion (set out below in paragraph 1 of the Annexe) be approved.

Purpose

4. To abolish the body known as Food from Britain (FFB), established by section 1 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 as part of the Government's public body reform programme.

5. A copy of the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Consent Memorandum, with full background details of the UK Government's proposal is set out in the Annexe to this paper.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

6. At its meeting on 20 May 2014, the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee considered the instrument and determined that it did not need to draw the attention of the Parliament to the instrument on any grounds within its remit.

**PUBLIC BODIES ACT CONSENT MEMORANDUM
THE PUBLIC BODIES (ABOLITION OF FOOD FROM BRITAIN) ORDER 2014**

Draft Public Bodies Act Consent Motion

1. The draft motion, which will be lodged by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, is:

“That the Parliament consents to the making of The Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014, a draft of which was laid before the United Kingdom Parliament on 6 May 2014 and which makes provision which would be within the legislative competence of the Parliament if it were contained within an Act of that Parliament.”

2. This Memorandum has been lodged by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, in accordance with Standing Orders under Chapter 9BA.

Background

Public Bodies Act 2011

3. The Public Bodies Act 2011 (“the 2011 Act”) gives UK Ministers the authority (via order making powers) to abolish, merge, modify or transfer the functions of public bodies listed in its Schedules, and some of those bodies operate in both the reserved and devolved areas, including Food from Britain. Section 9 of the 2011 Act acknowledges the scope for effects on devolved interests by requiring Orders that include provision falling within devolved competence to be consented to by Holyrood.

4. Standing Orders include the process for scrutinising PBACMs at Chapter 9BA.

Food From Britain

5. Food from Britain (“FFB”) was a Defra-sponsored Non Departmental Public Body which promoted UK food exports between 1983 and 2009. The decision to cease FFB’s activities was taken by the FFB Council in 2008, following a reduction in its grant in aid by a previous administration. The decision to close FFB was announced in a written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 26 March 2008, by the then Secretary of State. Although FFB closed its operations in March 2009 and no longer functions as a public body, the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 (“the 1983 Act”) which established FFB is still in place. That Act does not provide for FFB’s abolition. FFB was therefore included within Schedule 1 to the 2011 Act to allow for its legislative dissolution.

6. Shortly after the 2010 election, the UK Government announced that it would review arms-length bodies in order to reduce the numbers, costs and improve accountability. An announcement about the future of Defra’s arms length bodies (including FFB) was made in October 2010. Defra consulted in late 2013 to seek views on whether to formally dissolve FFB in law by repealing the 1983 Act, or do

nothing, allowing the legislation to remain in force for the foreseeable future. UK Ministers have now formally concluded that FFB should be abolished.

7. Since the cessation of FFB's activities in 2009, advice and support to UK food and drink exporters was made available from UK Trade and Investment, as well as Scottish Development International (Scottish Enterprise), the Welsh Government's Food and Market Development Division and Invest Northern Ireland. FFB's former network of independent International offices (now called the Green Seed Group) continues to offer consultancy services to UK exporters of food and drink on a commercial basis.

UK Government reform proposal

8. Exercising the power of the Public Bodies Act in abolishing FFB, and repealing the 1983 Act, will have the effect of dissolution of the FFB in law. Administratively, the FFB no longer exists and this is simply a tidying up exercise. FFB ceased operating in 2009 and there are no staff or assets remaining, though because the legislation is still live, Defra and the Devolved Administrations are required to publish Annual Reports and Accounts which must be laid before the UK Parliament and each National Assembly/Parliament each year, with a residual cost to Defra of around £5000 per annum.

Implications for Scotland

9. As this body has not existed since 2009, there are no implications other than an element of staff resource to formally present the Annual Reports and Accounts to the Scottish Parliament as part of the requirements the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983.

The draft Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014

10. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is promoting the draft Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014 (the FFB Order) under sections 1(1), 6(1) and (5), 24(1) and 35(2) of the Public Bodies Act 2011. The FFB Order (a copy of which is provided as an **Appendix** to this Memorandum) will formally abolish the FFB Council. It transfers to, and vests in, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the property, rights and liabilities of the FFB Council, and it makes provision for the preparation of a final report and statement of accounts. It also makes consequential repeals and revocations.

Scottish Government position

11. Since 2009 the Scottish Government has provided support to the Food and Drink Sector, through Scottish Development International working with the Sectors' representative body (Scotland Food and Drink), to target export opportunities in key markets around the world. The dissolution of FFB will have no impact on Scottish companies, who will continue to enjoy the support of Scottish Government through Scottish Development International.

Consultation

12. Section 10 of the 2011 Act requires the UK Minister proposing an Order to consult on the proposed changes. The UK Government consulted on its proposals from 19 September to 31 October 2013 to seek views on whether to formally dissolve FFB in law by repealing the 1983 Act, which initially established FFB, or to do nothing, allowing the legislation to remain in force for the foreseeable future. A total of 8 responses were received, of which 4 respondents supported the government's preferred option, one was opposed, and three did not provide a clear view either way. One respondent was from Scotland, one from NI, and none from Wales. The preferred option of the UK Government is to repeal the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 and dissolve this defunct body.

Financial / Resource Implications

13. There are no financial implications for Scotland. There are no resource implications other than the removal of the staff resource required to formally present Annual Reports and Accounts to the Scottish Parliament as part of the requirements the 1983 Act.

Equal Opportunities Implications

14. There are no Equal Opportunities implications

Conclusion

15. The Scottish Government invites the Parliament to consent to the making of The Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014, a draft of which was laid before the UK Parliament on 6 May 2014.

Scottish Government

7 May 2014

APPENDICE

Draft Order laid before Parliament under section 11 of the Public Bodies Act 2011, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament after the expiry of the 40-day period referred to in section 11(4) of that Act.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2014 No.

AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC BODIES

The Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014

Made - - - -

Coming into force in accordance with article 1

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1(1), 6(1) and (5), 24(1) and 35(2) of the Public Bodies Act 2011⁽¹⁾ (“the Act”), makes the following Order.

In accordance with section 8 of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that this Order—

- (a) serves the purpose of improving the exercise of public functions, having had regard to the factors set out in section 8(1) of the Act;
- (b) does not remove any necessary protection or prevent any person from continuing to exercise any right or freedom which that person might reasonably expect to continue to exercise.

The Scottish Parliament has consented to the making of this Order in so far as its consent is required by section 9(1) of the Act.

The Northern Ireland Assembly has consented to the making of this Order in so far as its consent is required by section 9(3) of the Act.

The National Assembly for Wales has consented to the making of this Order in so far as its consent is required by section 9(6) of the Act.

The Secretary of State has carried out consultation in accordance with section 10 of the Act.

The Secretary of State has consulted the Scottish Ministers in accordance with section 88(2) of the Scotland Act 1998⁽²⁾ and the Welsh Ministers in accordance with section 63(1) of the Government of Wales Act 2006⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 2011 c. 24.

⁽²⁾ 1998 c. 46.

A draft of this Order and an explanatory document containing the information required in section 11(2) of the Act have been laid before Parliament in accordance with section 11(1) after the end of the period of twelve weeks mentioned in section 11(3).

In accordance with section 11(4) of the Act, the draft of this Order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament after the expiry of the 40-day period referred to in that provision.

Citation, extent and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Public Bodies (Abolition of Food from Britain) Order 2014.

(2) The repeals and revocations made by article 4 and the Schedule have the same extent as the provisions to which they relate.

(3) This Order comes into force on the day after the day on which it is made, except as provided by paragraph (4).

(4) The entry in the table of repeals in the Schedule relating to the Public Bodies Act 2011 comes into force two days after the day on which this Order is made.

Abolition of Food from Britain

2.—(1) The council established by section 1 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983⁽⁴⁾ (Food from Britain) is abolished.

(2) The property, rights and liabilities of the council are transferred to and vest in the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Final report and accounts

3.—(1) The Secretary of State must prepare a report of what has been done in the discharge of Food from Britain's functions during the periods—

- (a) beginning with 1st April 2013 and ending with 31st March 2014; and
- (b) beginning with 1st April 2014 and ending immediately before the day on which this article comes into force.

(2) The Secretary of State must—

- (a) prepare a statement of accounts of Food from Britain in respect of the periods referred to in paragraph (1)(a) and (b), and
- (b) send a copy of the statement to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor General must—

- (a) examine, certify and report on the statement prepared under paragraph (2), and
- (b) send a copy of the certified statement and of the Comptroller and Auditor General's report to the Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

(4) The Secretary of State must lay the final document before each House of Parliament.

(5) The Scottish Ministers must lay the final document before the Scottish Parliament.

(6) The Welsh Ministers must lay the final document before the National Assembly for Wales.

(7) The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland must lay the final document before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(8) In this article, "the final document" means a document consisting of—

- (a) a copy of the report prepared under paragraph (1), and

⁽³⁾ 2006 c. 32.

⁽⁴⁾ 1983 c. 3.

(b) a copy of the statement and of the report sent under paragraph (3)(b).

Repeals and revocations

4. The provisions mentioned in the Schedule are repealed or revoked to the extent specified.

Date Name
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

SCHEDULE

Article 4

Repeals and revocations

Table of repeals

<i>Short title</i>	<i>Extent of repeal</i>
Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 ⁽⁵⁾	In Schedule 2, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
Agriculture Act 1967 ⁽⁶⁾	Part 4.
House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 ⁽⁷⁾	In Schedule 1, in Part 3, the entry relating to the Chairman of Food from Britain.
Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 ⁽⁸⁾	In Schedule 1, in Part 2, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
Agricultural Marketing Act 1983	The whole Act.
Agriculture Act 1986 ⁽⁹⁾	Section 8. Section 24(2) and (3). In section 24(7), “8,”.
Freedom of Information Act 2000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	In Schedule 1, in Part 6, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 ⁽¹¹⁾	In Schedule 2, in Part 2, paragraph 70.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ⁽¹²⁾	In Schedule 7, paragraph 11.

⁽⁵⁾ 1967 c. 13. Schedule 2 was substituted by article 2 of S.I. 2011/2986. There are amendments to Schedule 2, but none is relevant.

⁽⁶⁾ 1967 c. 22. Repeals to provisions of Part 4 were made by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14). Section 2 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 transferred the functions of the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation to Food from Britain.

⁽⁷⁾ 1975 c. 24.

⁽⁸⁾ 1975 c. 25.

⁽⁹⁾ 1986 c. 49. Repeals to sections 8 and 24 were made by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004.

⁽¹⁰⁾ 2000 c. 36. There are amendments to Schedule 1 that are not relevant to this Order.

⁽¹¹⁾ 2002 asp 11.

⁽¹²⁾ 2006 c. 16.

<i>Short title</i>	<i>Extent of repeal</i>
Public Bodies Act 2011	In Schedule 1, the entry relating to Food from Britain.

Table of revocations

<i>Title</i>	<i>Extent of revocation</i>
The Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 (Commencement) Order 1983 ⁽¹³⁾	The whole Order.
The Agriculture Act 1986 (Commencement No. 3) Order 1986 ⁽¹⁴⁾	The whole Order.
The Companies Act 1989 (Eligibility for Appointment as Company Auditor) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 1991 ⁽¹⁵⁾	In the Schedule, paragraph 48.
The House of Commons Disqualification Order 1993 ⁽¹⁶⁾	In the Schedule— (a) in paragraph 2, the entry relating to Food from Britain, (b) in paragraph 4, the entry relating to the Chairman of Food from Britain.
The Agriculture Act 1986 (Commencement No. 6) Order 1998 ⁽¹⁷⁾	The whole Order.
The Scotland Act 1998 (Cross-Border Public Authorities) (Specification) Order 1999 ⁽¹⁸⁾	In the Schedule, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
The Scotland Act 1998 (Cross-Border Public Authorities) (Adaptation of Functions etc) Order 1999 ⁽¹⁹⁾	In Schedule 1, the entry relating to Food from Britain. Schedule 11.
The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Designation of Public Authorities) Order 2001 ⁽²⁰⁾	In Schedule 1, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Dissolution) Order 2002 ⁽²¹⁾	Article 3(1)(f) (but not the “or” at the end of that sub-paragraph).
The Freedom of Information Act 2000	In Schedule 1, in Part 1, the entry relating to

⁽¹³⁾ S.I. 1983/366 (C. 13).

⁽¹⁴⁾ S.I. 1986/1596 (C. 57).

⁽¹⁵⁾ S.I. 1991/1997, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.

⁽¹⁶⁾ S.I. 1993/1572.

⁽¹⁷⁾ S.I. 1998/879 (C. 19).

⁽¹⁸⁾ S.I. 1999/1319, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.

⁽¹⁹⁾ S.I. 1999/1747, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.

⁽²⁰⁾ S.I. 2001/1294.

⁽²¹⁾ S.I. 2002/794, to which there is an amendment not relevant to this Order.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Extent of revocation</i>
(Commencement No. 2) Order 2002 ⁽²²⁾	Food from Britain.
The Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Modification of Enactments) Order 2002 ⁽²³⁾	Article 7.
The Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (Audit of Public Bodies) Order 2003 ⁽²⁴⁾	Article 13. In the Schedule, the entry relating to Food from Britain.
The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments etc) Order 2008 ⁽²⁵⁾	In Schedule 1, in Part 1, paragraph 1(bb).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order abolishes the council known as Food from Britain established by section 1 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1983 (c. 3). It transfers to, and vests in, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the property, rights and liabilities of the council, and it makes provision for the preparation of a final report and statement of accounts. It also makes consequential repeals and revocations.

No impact assessment has been produced as no cost to the business or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

⁽²²⁾ S.I. 2002/2812 (C. 86), to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.
⁽²³⁾ S.I. 2002/2843.
⁽²⁴⁾ S.I. 2003/1326, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.
⁽²⁵⁾ S.I. 2008/948, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

Draft Annual Report 2013-14

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

Introduction

1. This report covers the work of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment (RACCE) Committee during the parliamentary year between 11 May 2013 and 10 May 2014.

Legislation

Crofting (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

2. The Crofting (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government on 10 May 2013 and was subsequently referred to the RACCE Committee for scrutiny at Stages 1 and 2.

3. The Committee issued a call for views and took evidence at its meetings from stakeholders on 15 May and from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 22 May 2013.

4. The Committee published its Stage 1 Report on 31 May 2013 and the Bill passed Stage 1 on 6 June 2013. The Committee then considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 12 June 2013 with Parliament passing the Bill at Stage 3 on 25 June 2013. The Bill received Royal Assent on 31 July 2013.

Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Bill

5. The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Bill was introduced in Parliament on 27 March 2013 by John Swinney MSP and was subsequently referred to the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee as the lead committee for Stage 1 scrutiny by the Parliamentary Bureau on 16 April 2013. RACCE was designated as secondary committee and took evidence on part 2 of the Bill relating to environmental regulation and the elements of part 1 which related to its remit at Stage 1.

6. The Committee issued a call for views and took evidence at its meetings on 22 and 29 May from stakeholders and from the Minister on 5 June. The Committee published its report on 28 June 2013.

7. The Bill was debated at Stage 1 on 12 November 2013, with Members of the Committee taking part, and the Bill was passed at Stage 3 on 16 January 2014.

Draft Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order

8. The proposed draft Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2014 (SG 2013/261) (sometimes referred to as the ECHR Order) was laid in the Parliament, by the Scottish Government, on Friday 22 November 2013, along with an accompanying Statement of Reasons..

9. The Committee took evidence on the order from Scottish Government officials at its meeting on 4 December 2013 and then from stakeholders and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment on 18 December and 15 January 2014 respectively.

10. The Committee published its report recommending Parliament approve the order on 7 February 2014.

Draft Budget 2014-15

11. The Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15 was laid in Parliament on September 11, 2013. The Committee issued a call for views and took evidence at its meetings on 24 and 31 October 2013 from the Minister and the Cabinet Secretary respectively.

12. The Committee asked all subject committees to include an assessment of how the budget in their portfolio areas had taken account of climate change issues in their reports.

13. The Committee's report, which was included in the Finance Committee's report, was published on 9 December 2013.

Subordinate legislation

14. Over the course of the year the Committee scrutinised—

- 2 affirmative Scottish Statutory Instruments (SSIs);
- 33 negative SSIs; and
- 1 piece of guidance subject to approval.

Inquiries/evidence sessions

European issues

15. The Committee agreed and monitored its European priorities during this year, and also held an evidence session with Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment on 20 June 2013.

16. The Committee hosted an event with Michael Scannell, Director of the Food and Veterinary Office in the European Commission on measures to strengthen the enforcement of health and safety standards for the whole agri-food chain to provide a modernised and simplified risk based approach to the protection of health and the operation of the food chain. The European and External Relations and Health and Sport Committees were invited to the event.

Draft Third National Planning Framework (NPF3)

17. The draft NPF3 was laid in Parliament on 14 January 2014 and was scrutinised by four Parliamentary committees (RACCE; Local Government and

Regeneration; Economy, Energy and Transport; and Infrastructure and Capital Investment) which considered aspects of the document relevant to their remits.

18. The Committee took evidence from stakeholders at its meetings on January 29 and February 5, and from the Minister on 19 February 2014, and published its report on 14 March 2014.

The Scottish Government's implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-20

19. The Committee took evidence on the implementation of the newly reformed CAP in Scotland from stakeholders at its meetings on February 26 and March 5; the Cabinet Secretary on 26 March; and the UK Secretary of State, Owen Paterson MP on 23 April 2014.

20. The Committee published its letter to the Scottish Government on 9 May 2014.

Deer management

21. The Committee scrutinised the issue of deer management in Scotland and heard evidence from stakeholders on 13 and 20 November 2013.

22. On 5 February 2014, the Committee published its letter to the Scottish Government summarising its views and setting out its recommendations on the future of deer management.

The Scottish Government's draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme and behaviour change

23. The Committee scrutinised two separate pieces of work by the Scottish Government in relation to climate change. The first is the Low Carbon Scotland: A Behaviours Framework (the Framework) which was published to support the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027 - The Draft Second Report on Proposals and Policies document (RPP2). The second is the Scottish Government's draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

24. The Committee held a debate in the Chamber on 14 January 2014 on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The Committee had previously written to the Minister on 2 December 2013 after considering evidence from sessions with the Minister on 6 November and on 9 and 30 October with stakeholders.

Other evidence sessions/inquiries/reports

25. The Committee also took evidence on the following issues—

- Biodiversity;
- Wildlife crime;
- Resource use and a circular economy;
- Marine issues;
- Agricultural holdings;
- Community transport;
- Land reform

- The Crown Estate;
- Raasay sporting rights lease;
- Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee reviews of EU rules, and the legislation process; and
- Aquaculture and fisheries issues.

Petitions

26. The Committee considered five petitions over the course of the Parliamentary year—

- PE1336 on the protection of wild salmon and sea trout stocks from inappropriate commercial fish farm activities – closed 12 June 2013;
- PE1386 on the establishment of further static gear only inshore fisheries – closed 11 September 2013;
- PE1450 on environmental and genetic impact on natural stocks of Sea and Brown Trout by stocking rivers with farmed Brown Trout and hatchery reared Atlantic Salmon – closed 11 September 2013;
- PE1441 on flood insurance problems – closed 30 October 2013; and
- PE1490 on the control of wild goose numbers – subject to ongoing consideration.

Engagement and innovation

27. In August 2013, the Committee held its business planning event at the Glenlivet Estate, where Members met representatives from the Crown Estate, local farmers and local tourism businesses to discuss issues including working with tenants; supporting local businesses; and community initiatives and partnerships.

28. The Committee also visited the University of Edinburgh's ClimateXchange building and the SRUC's GreenCow Project in January and February 2014 respectively. The Committee also hosted an event with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with speakers from the IPCC and Met Office. The event was open to all MSPs, researchers and SPCB staff.

29. The Committee joined the Digital Parliament programme pilot which encourages use of digital over printed publications throughout the organisation. The Committee increased its engagement with the public through targeted press releases and added to that with video pieces on deer management and CAP.

30. The Committee has also continued to engage stakeholders interested in the Committee's work via its Twitter account and has now attracted nearly 1000 followers.

Equalities

31. The Committee focussed on equalities issues (and disability in particular) as one of the themes of its budget scrutiny in 2013. The Committee wrote to the Equal Opportunities Committee, which focussed its own budget scrutiny on disability, asking it to specifically consider issues faced by people with disabilities in rural communities.

32. In its budget report, the Committee noted its concern that people's use of the outdoors is declining, and that only 64% of people with disabilities are currently accessing the outdoors, compared to 80% of non-disabled adults and welcomed current initiatives designed to improve the use of the outdoors by equalities groups. It also recommended that the Scottish Government encourages further projects and ensures that disabled groups are included in informing and developing any such initiatives.

Meetings

33. The Committee met 35 times during the Parliamentary year. Two meetings were held entirely in private and 22 meetings included items in private.

34. The majority of the items taken in private were to consider draft reports and the Committee's work programme. All meetings were held in Edinburgh.