

File Note.

Telephone call from [redacted] farm on 16 August 2017. [redacted] was concerned about 2 areas of ground on which weeds were growing and that no measures had been taken to prevent seeds spreading to land farmed by him.

The locations were at [redacted] farm and Candybank and it was expected that Scottish Government would now take action on his behalf. It was explained that before doing so we would require to have written notification and a map of the areas concerned. In addition we would require evidence of the actions that had been taken to seek a co-operative approach with the occupiers of these areas of land.

[redacted] said that he was unable to contact the occupier of the land at Candybank as he did not know who they were or where they stayed. Previous engagement with occupiers of this land regarding the control of weeds had been fraught and that he and his advisor had been threatened.

As far he was aware the occupier of the land at [redacted] farm had moved to Arran and although someone else had been utilising the land, did not know who that was. He also advised that he on the basis of legal advice obtained he had been instructed not to make any contact the occupier of the land at [redacted] farm.

I explained that given the nature of the circumstances described that we would require these details to be provided in writing so as I could address any potential personal safety matters for staff who would be investigating the complaint.

[redacted] confirmed that these details would be provided in due course.

Senior Agricultural Officer.  
16 August 2017.

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Dear

16-8-17.

As per our telephone call today regarding injurious weeds in field opposite Tandybank ground across the A702 from me. hatched red on map enclosed.

As far as I know the field has not been occupied this year and the owner, I was told stays at Penicuik I have no address. My solicitor wanted myself and an expert witness to survey the weeds in the field a few years back. The expert witness wanted to go into the field, I was not keen to do this. The owner turned up told us to get to hell. I was leaving but the expert witness was explaining about injurious weeds and the owner assaulted the expert witness. Please can you get the injurious weeds controlled this year and future years.