

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2017 12:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY - Am Bratach - NFUS secondment to SG

Afternoon,

Am Bratach have asked if we have anything to add to the First Minister's response to Andy Wightman at FMQs re NFUS and the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards having officials seconded to the Scottish Government?

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Green): *This week, I learned in a response to a written question that, among 120 secondments into the Scottish Government, which come almost universally from other bodies in the public sector, was one from the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards. That comes on the back of a previous answer that revealed that the director of policy at NFU Scotland has been embedded within the Scottish Government since November 2016. Three days a week, he works lobbying the Scottish Government on behalf of his organisation, and for two days he works at the heart of Government, developing policy. Does the First Minister believe that that is a healthy development? Will she explain the purpose of having those representatives of the landed class at the heart of Government? Does she agree that there is an obvious conflict of interest?*

The First Minister: *No, I do not. I know that it is not fashionable these days to consider the views of experts as being worth listening to, but I think it is right that, in Government, we have expertise from a range of different areas helping to inform and develop Government policy. We have that from a range of different interests so that a broad spectrum of expertise is feeding into Government policy. I am happy to correspond with Andy Wightman if he has particular concerns but, in general, for the Government to use the expertise that exists across our country is a good thing that should be welcomed.*

Also can we name the NFUS employee seconded to the Scottish Government?

Grateful for assistance

Many thanks

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | St Andrew's House | Regent Road |
Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |
[REDACTED]