

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 January 2018 13:58
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Lines for clearance - Mr Gove's Oxford Farming Conference 2018 speech - urgent

Tidying up the language a little:

"We need absolute clarity from the UK Government on two fundamental points ~~The starting point~~ when it comes to the post-Brexit agriculture policy in Scotland. **First, they must ensure** ~~is one ensuring~~ that responsibility for the sector is repatriated from Brussels to Holyrood rather than Westminster – something supported by a clear majority of Scottish public opinion. **Secondly, UK Ministers must provide total clarity on both pre and post Brexit funding for rural Scotland – something they have not yet done.**

[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Sent: 10 January 2018 13:50
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Lines for clearance - Mr Gove's Oxford Farming Conference 2018 speech - urgent

[redacted],

Mr Ewing has cleared with the addition of the following (in red) below

Many thanks

[redacted]
[redacted] | [redacted] | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG | T: [redacted]
Blackberry [redacted]

Please check our updated [Ministerial Preferences](#).

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 January 2018 11:27
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Lines for clearance - Mr Gove's Oxford Farming Conference 2018 speech - urgent

Hi [redacted].

Farmer's Guardian would like a response to Michael Gove's suggestion that it's up to devolved governments to press ahead with their own agri policies (see below).

SpAds and officials have cleared lines the below. Would appreciate Mr Ewing's feedback pls – in the next hour if possible.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The starting point when it comes to the post-Brexit agriculture policy in Scotland is **one** ensuring that responsibility for the sector is repatriated from Brussels to Holyrood rather than Westminster – something supported by a clear majority of Scottish public opinion **and two UKG providing total clarity on both pre and post Brexit funding for rural Scotland that they have not done.**

"We are happy to discuss UK-wide frameworks in certain areas, but that must be on the basis of negotiation and mutual agreement.

"However, it will not be possible to plan a long-term policy without knowing the available budget, and the UK Government have yet to provide clarity on what long-term funding will be available. We will continue to press UK Government on this as a matter of urgency."

[redacted] [redacted]

QUERY

Asked on Farming Today whether the devolved regions would have similar policies to England, he said:

"It is really up to them to choose. One of the things about devolution, particularly post-Brexit, is more power, more flexibility will accrue to the Scottish and Welsh Governments and Northern Ireland Assembly.

"Of course we want to make sure we have a viable UK internal market, and we are developing a framework across all four parts of the UK in order to ensure this works out, but were it the case the Scottish Government wanted to allocate its agricultural support in a different way, that would be its appropriate responsibility."

Does the Scottish Government have a clear enough idea of the parameters they'll be working around in terms of a UK framework to go ahead and start designing their own policy?

Thanks very much,

[redacted] [redacted]

Farmers Guardian
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