

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

SCOTTISH RURAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT BILL – LINES TO TAKE

- In a Parliamentary debate on 10 Jan 2019, I announced that we would introduce a rural support Bill in this Parliamentary session.
- This will enable us to amend retained EU law to deliver on the proposals for the period up to 2024, as set out in our Stability and Simplicity consultation, with the main changes planned from 2021 onwards.
- While the Legislative Programme is yet to be confirmed, it is clear that there is ample time to progress this Bill through the Scottish Parliament in time to make changes from 2021 onwards.

BACKGROUND

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 March 2019 10:44

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <CabSecRE@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Mr Ewing's bilateral with Mr Dey on legislative bids: Tues 3 April

[REDACTED]

I understand that Mr Ewing's bilat with Mr Dey is scheduled for 3.00 next Tuesday, 3 April.

PLU have confirmed that they will provide both ministers with material on Mr Ewing's bids, using templates that the relevant policy teams have filled in.

I suggest it might also be helpful for Mr Ewing to have, on a single sheet, a reminder for each of his bids of how time-critical they are and what the current planned timescale is. I have spoken to each policy team and am happy to pull that together. The bids are:

- Rural Financial Support [REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]
- [REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

Will you confirm who Mr Ewing would like to have as supporting officials ?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Government

Spur D, Saughton House, Edinburgh EH11 3XD

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2019 17:05
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Scottish Parliament Debate - Fergus Ewing announcement

Good Afternoon all

This afternoon during a debate on “Future Rural Policy and Support in Scotland” in the Scottish Parliament, Mr Ewing said that the Scottish Government intends to introduce legislation in the Scottish Parliament this Parliamentary session to deliver the powers that Scotland needs for rural policy and support for the five years after Brexit.

Mr Ewing will say more about this decision at the Ministerial meeting in London on Monday.

Below is a copy of a short note we have issued to stakeholders this afternoon.

Dear Stakeholder

During a debate on future rural policy in the Scottish Parliament this afternoon, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing, announced the Scottish Government’s intention to introduce a Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

The Bill will deliver the powers needed to enable the Scottish Government to implement its Stability and Simplicity proposals for rural financial support up to 2024.

The precise timetable for the Bill will be determined when the Parliament’s legislative programme is confirmed.

This means that the Scottish Government will not be seeking to take a Schedule of powers in the UK Government’s Agriculture Bill that is currently going through the parliamentary process at Westminster. However, as Mr Ewing said in his speech, that does not mean that our issues with the UK Agriculture Bill disappear. On the contrary, unless it is amended it still takes powers away from Scotland, and we will continue to press Defra on these issues.

We will of course keep you informed as our work on the Scottish Bill develops.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

- SG's plans ('Stability and Simplicity') foresee that new powers will be needed in Scotland, but only from around 2021 once we start amending the current schemes.
- Mr Gove has said that, for now at least, the option remains open for Scotland to take such powers via the Agriculture Bill.
- We continue to work with the UK Government to resolve the problems we have with the Bill.
- But, in the meantime, we are actively considering all available options for ensuring Scottish ministers have the powers required in this policy area in the post-exit period, including legislation in the Scottish Parliament.

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

Scottish Agricultural Bill

Arrangements are already in place to ensure that that is no legal vacuum if and when the UK leaves the EU, even in a No-Deal scenario.

- The EU (Withdrawal) Act and the Scottish Continuity Bill, plus SIs/SSIs, will guarantee that we are still able to make payments and administer schemes in the event of a no deal scenario.
- If there is a deal, as per the Withdrawal Agreement (as it is currently drafted) we will continue to follow the CAP, along with the rest of the UK, until the end of 2020.

Scotland is well capable of developing and delivering its own policy and legislation for Scottish farming and food production

- We have already published our proposals for a 7 year transition plan to provide stability and simplicity that makes clear that farmers should be rewarded both for their contribution to the environment and for the high quality food that they produce.
- These proposals set out a period of stability through 2019 and 2020, following which, from January 2021, we will start to make improvements and simplifications to the current regime.
- This means that the Scottish Government only needs powers to make these changes through primary legislation from January 2021.
- We continue to work with the UK government to address our issues with their Agriculture Bill.
- But, in the meantime, we are actively considering all available options for ensuring Scottish ministers have the powers required in this policy area in the post-exit period, including legislation in the Scottish Parliament.

Background

- The Stability and Simplicity consultation sets out an initial period of stability in 2019-2020 when existing (CAP-based) schemes will broadly continue, followed by improvements to those schemes to improve and simplify them during 2021 to 2024.

- As the EU (Withdrawal) Act and EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill roll over the CAP into domestic law, we still be able to run status quo schemes, and make status quo payments, immediately after March 2019.
- The need to be able to amend retained EU law therefore effectively arises from 1 January 2021. This should allow sufficient time to prepare a Scottish Bill, should one be required.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE RURAL ECONOMY
MEETING WITH ARRAN FARMERS

SCOTTISH RURAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT BILL

Top Lines

- Preparations are going well for our Bill, provisionally entitled the “Rural Financial Support” Bill. We have been keeping stakeholders informed about progress, most recently at a stakeholder group meeting on 23 May.
- As I announced in January, this Bill will enable us to simplify and improve the operation of current schemes in the period 2021-2024.
- **I cannot confirm the Bill timetable until the Legislative Programme is confirmed, but there is plenty of time to get it through the Parliament and begin using it from Jan 2021.** Existing schemes can continue to run until then, in line with our announced policy (Stability and Simplicity).
- [REDACTED]
- We are also putting in place a programme to develop policy for beyond 2024, and will of course engage with stakeholders. But this current Bill is not intended to cover that long term policy; this would be premature.

Background

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 March 2019 14:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <CabSecRE@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Scottish Rural Financial Support Bill - Note for meeting with officials 26 Mar 2019

Scottish Rural Financial Support Bill

Further to Cab Sec's request for a meeting with officials to discuss the Scottish Rural Financial Support Bill, please see attached background minute and paper highlighting the main topics where decisions on policy or handling are likely to be needed, a brief explanation of what we might want to do and the Legislation that requires to be amended to facilitate any such changes.

A copy of the progress report that [REDACTED] sent to Cab Sec on 8 March is also attached for info.

[REDACTED]



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy.

Scottish Rural Financial Support Bill

Note for meeting with Officials - Tues 26 March 2019.

As requested by the Cabinet Secretary, a meeting has been arranged for Tues 26 March 2019, to allow officials to bring him up to speed on progress of the Scottish Rural Financial Support Bill, including the proposed timetable for the Bill.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]