

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached note from [REDACTED] from the meeting yesterday, grateful if this can be actioned as appropriate.

Thanks again for your help pulling the briefing together.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 25 November 2021 22:44

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: 15:00 - 15:45: Meeting with Organic Harvest - Discussion on Planning and Consenting process

Dear [REDACTED],

I trust you are well.

Firstly can I take the opportunity to thank the Cabinet Secretary for taking so much of her valuable time to speak to me which is greatly appreciated. I hope I did not breach any rules while I was speaking and making comment as I know I get over the top passionate about OSH and the industry in general.

I really welcome the commissioning of Professor Griggs by the Cabinet Secretary and the independent review of the aquaculture consenting process and if there is ever a round table discussion on the back of this independent review I would welcome the opportunity to join the table.

The 45 mins I felt went by very quickly and I am not sure I answered all of the Cabinet Secretary's questions or made much such sense as I was quite nervous and keen to ensure I stuck to protocol.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- We require a single application process covering all aspects of development even if different bodies then consider a smaller part of their application under their own remit
- Single, time limited, public consultation with regulatory bodies responding to specific points in their determination documents

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Too many elements to the consenting process
- [REDACTED]
- Regulatory bodies have generally seen increased consenting workloads with decreasing staff numbers in recent years
- [REDACTED]
- We therefore have a National & Local Policy which looks for expansion of the sector. The sector has a range of environmental challenges which it needs to achieve in order to operate sustainably. As I mentioned our proposals from day 1 were expressed within the National Marine Plan and the fact that we achieved and complied with is surely a very positive aspect.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Again I hope I have not over stepped on anything I have said and all if not most of what I have quoted would have been captured in my meeting with Professor Griggs but please feel free to redact anything that is controversial as its become quite an emotive subject and all we hoped for was a fair crack of the whip and build a small branded business within a fragile community within my homeland.

Please pass on my Thanks again to the Cabinet Secretary for taking the time out and listening and hopefully she will come and visit us soon at both Gairloch and Staffin.

The door is always open and the kettle on.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd | *with best regards*

**Ailig MacAonghais**

Alex MacInnes

**Director**

**T:** [REDACTED]

**E:** [REDACTED]

[www.organicseaharvest.co.uk](http://www.organicseaharvest.co.uk)



On 15 November 2021 at 08:49:29 -00:00, [REDACTED]wrote:

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[REDACTED]

**Or call in (audio only)**

[REDACTED]United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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# **SPEAKING NOTE MATERIAL**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- I am delighted to be here today at AquaGen's Hollywood Breeding Centre in Dumfries to unveil this plaque and officially open this hatchery.
- I am pleased to see this important part of the sector develop in Scotland. The hatchery is supporting 8 highly skilled local jobs and will help to ensure an environmentally sustainable future for the aquaculture industry.
- I welcome this significant investment in Scotland. AquaGen was particularly affected by recent export restrictions in Norway. Although that was a time of concern for all involved I am delighted that AquaGen, the world's largest supplier of salmon eggs, has established production in Scotland.
- The hatchery is important for ova security and is capable of producing robust ova selected for our unique environment, clearly aligned with the ambitions of Scotland's Farmed Fish Health Framework.

- This Centre is an example of the ambition and commitment from the sector adapting to change, adopting innovative ways of working, and everyone involved should be congratulated for their efforts to minimise its environmental footprint.

## **SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE**

- Whilst I've been here this morning the Scottish Government has published its first assessment of genetic introgression in Scotland and our response to the Salmon Interactions Working Group Report. I'm also announcing funding of just over £650,000 this year to extend Scotland's salmon counter network and improve our evidence base.
- We are making progress to support a sustainable fish farming sector in Scotland.
- This hatchery is a clear demonstration of progress in action. Being here today, meeting fish health and breeding professionals responsible for supporting Scottish and global food production chains, reinforces the importance of creating an enabling environment for a prosperous and sustainable future for Scottish aquaculture.

- This new hatchery is a key achievement for AquaGen, and that it will help deliver on its promise to ensure sustainable value on a triple bottom line: socially, environmentally and economically.
- It now gives me great pleasure to officially open the hatchery.....

## **Opening Address – COP 26 Salmon Scotland Sustainability Charter and Net Zero reception**

### **Introduction**

- I would like to thank Salmon Scotland for inviting me to this reception and for asking me to say a few words.
- Before I do, I'd like to compliment Salmon Scotland on its rebranding and the striking new logo.
- This change is fitting, highlighting the important work which you do to support producers and across the entire supply chain.

### **COP26**

- The world has gathered here in Glasgow to address the pressing questions of our age: how do we respond to the challenges posed by the climate crisis? How can we move to a sustainable future, achieve net zero emissions and make sure our transition to that future is fair for all?
- These questions will not be answered easily but, in coming together to discuss them, we are taking important steps and building on the foundations that all of us in Government and the sector have made.

## **Opening Address – COP 26 Salmon Scotland Sustainability Charter and Net Zero reception**

- As we transition to a more sustainable future. Questions of food production and security will become ever more pressing. Aquaculture is uniquely placed to contribute and increasingly seen as vital to our ability to feed a growing global population.

### **Scottish Aquaculture**

- Aquaculture is a vital part of our economy. As I am sure you are all aware, the Scottish aquaculture sector supports almost 12,000 often highly skilled and well paid jobs.
- It contributes approximately £885 million to the wider Scottish economy and around 76% of industry spend is in Scotland.
- We tend to think of aquaculture in terms of our island and coastal communities but the sector's supply chain is represented in every single constituency across Scotland.

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- Scottish aquaculture is dominated in terms of value and volume by salmon production and farmed salmon is the UK's number one food export. It is no coincidence that our world leaders are going to be eating Loch Duart salmon during the main programme of events.
- The Scottish salmon sector is dynamic, highly skilled and innovative. It is embracing innovation to improve fish health, reduce environmental impacts and mitigate climate pressures.
- We see examples in action across the sector, for example;
  - Diverting salmon farm waste from landfill by conversion into biogas energy generation at an award-winning project on Lewis.
  - Significant fuel and CO<sub>2</sub> savings from the introduction of Mull based hybrid powered workboats.

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- A whole host of sustainability projects supported in partnership with the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre in Stirling. Established by the Scottish Government, SAIC has funded 65 collaborative research projects the most recent example of which is a new project to more accurately model salmon farms' environmental impact.
- These innovations are hugely valuable to Scottish producers but they are also part of a much bigger picture of technology and expertise being shared across the globe from right here in Scotland.

### **Sustainability**

- Tonight Salmon Scotland is publishing a report on the progress made against the targets set in the Sustainability Charter, A Better Future for Us All. That report sees progress being reported on almost all of the targets.
- To make the excellent progress that has been achieved would be impressive under any circumstances. To make such progress in the incredibly difficult last few years is remarkable.

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- Scotland's salmon producers have weathered the storm of the pandemic, maintained and even increased production volumes, kept their people safe and progressed sustainability targets.
- I am sure everyone will join me in congratulating all involved. This progress has taken effort, dedication and ingenuity.
- Because of these qualities, I am confident that the sector is better positioned than many to rise to the challenges of achieving net zero. And there are many challenges.
- If we are to succeed in making salmon farming and aquaculture truly sustainable it is vital that we, government, industry and our communities, continue to work together.

## **Opening Address – COP 26 Salmon Scotland Sustainability Charter and Net Zero reception**

### **The role of Government**

- Salmon Scotland's ambitious sustainability charter aims to build sector resilience, end reliance on fossil fuels, enhance fish health and environmental outcomes, increase opportunities in the rural and island economies and expand the market for Scottish salmon.
- The Scottish Government supports these aspirations and looks forward to engaging positively to help turn these goals into real and measurable outcomes. We continue to support the sustainable growth of the industry.
- The Programme for Government makes clear our intentions and so we will set out in 2022 our long term Vision for sustainable aquaculture in Scotland.
- We also need to look with fresh eyes at how the sector is regulated in Scotland. We have commissioned an independent review of the regulatory landscape and we look forward to receiving recommendations for further work from Professor Griggs at the end of the year.

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- Where those recommendations identify regulatory obstacles to realising our goal of a sustainable industry on the pathway to net zero, the Scottish Government will consider them carefully and will act. Effective and efficient regulation is in everybody's interests.

### **The future**

- The salmon sector can only be a truly sustainable success story if economic growth goes hand in hand with positive outcomes for Scotland's communities and Scotland's natural environment.
- The transition to net zero emissions is crucial to this. We welcome and share the aspirations of the sector.
- Interlinked economic, social and environmental progress underpins how the Scottish economy at large should, and will, develop.
- Few other sectors are so directly and visibly connected to all three outcomes as aquaculture.

## **Opening Address – COP 26 Salmon Scotland Sustainability Charter and Net Zero reception**

- We aren't going to feed the world on Scottish salmon, or solve all the challenges before this congress, but the industry is making a hugely valuable contribution to Scotland and to our collective future.
- The sector is producing food, generating valuable export revenue, supporting jobs and communities, innovating and sharing its hard won lessons. Tonight clearly demonstrates the commitment, and the progress, to sustainability.
- I'd like to congratulate Salmon Scotland and all those involved in the success of the Scottish salmon sector. I look forward to Government and industry working together to build on this excellent progress.
- Thank you

**988 words – Approx 6 Minutes**

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLAND'S MEETING WITH  
PROFESSOR RUSSEL GRIGGS- AQUACULTURE INDEPENDENT REVIEWER  
OF AQUACULTURE CONSENTING- 25 OCTOBER 2021**

**Present: Mairi Gougeon Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands  
Professor Russel Griggs- Independent reviewer  
Private Secretary to Ms Gougeon  
Head of Aquaculture Consenting**

1. This meeting was requested by Professor Griggs to provide an update on his review of the aquaculture consenting regime.
2. Professor Griggs gave a quick update on the direction that the review was taking and his expected time for delivery.
3. It was agreed that a further presentation on emerging themes might take place at a later date with other Ministerial colleagues.

Head of Aquaculture Consenting Review and Special Projects  
Marine Scotland

October 2021