

## 1. Gene Editing

### **Q. What is the Scottish government's position on gene editing?**

**A.** Scotland's policy on GMOs has not changed, and gene editing falls under current GMO legislation. We remain opposed to the use of GM in farming, to protect the clean, green brand of Scotland's £15 billion food and drink industry.

We are aware of current debate around novel genomic techniques and how these relate to existing GM legislation, and we note in particular the consideration of this at EU level. The Scottish Government is committed to keeping aligned with the European Union, and we are closely monitoring the EU's position on this issue.

### **Q. Won't Scottish farmers be disadvantaged if English farmers can use gene editing and we can't? Can the Cabinet Secretary guarantee that gene edited products from England that are not permitted under Scottish law won't be on the market in Scotland?**

**A.** We are aware of Defra's plans to review the English regulatory definitions of a genetically modified organism, to exclude organisms produced by gene editing and other genetic technologies if they could have been developed by traditional breeding. We are considering the implications for Scotland and will continue to engage with Defra, Wales, and Northern Ireland to ensure that devolved competences are respected.