

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY & LAND REFORM
Briefing for visit with AIC Scotland**

What	AIC Scotland have requested an introductory meeting with you to discuss [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Category: Routine engagement and photo-op
Where	[REDACTED]
When	Wednesday 25 August 2021 – 14:30 – 15:30
Key Message(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We value Scotland’s agricultural sector and supply chain for the work they do in providing food with an international reputation for quality and environmental production standards. • Climate change in agriculture is a challenge across Scotland and that we welcome the role that AIC is playing in supporting emissions reductions. • A balance must be found to ensure greenhouse gas reductions can take place while Scotland continues to produce high quality and sustainable food.
Who	AIC Scotland: [REDACTED] – AIC Scotland Policy Manager [REDACTED] – AIC Chief Executive [REDACTED] – East Coast Viners Commercial Manager [REDACTED] – East Coast Viners Grain & Fertiliser Manager
Why	An opportunity to improve relations with stakeholders, and reinforce/illustrate existing policy. MiCase reference: 202100206095 AIC requested an introductory meeting on 21 May 2021. A copy of the full e-mail is featured in ANNEX E .
Supporting official	[REDACTED] is attending in support – [REDACTED] For any other urgent questions/support contact [REDACTED]
Briefing contents	Annex A: Summary Page Annex B: Top Lines Annex C: Event Agenda Annex D: Attendees Annex E: Original correspondence from AIC
Media Handling	No Comms official attending.
Social Media	Suggested tweet: “Great introductory meeting with @AgindustriesUK. Look forward to future engagements - thanks for having me and @MairiMcAllan along.”

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	AIC Scotland – @AgindustriesUK East Coast Viners - @EastCoastViners
Dress code	Please wear sturdy footwear and practical clothing.
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SE Building)	You have been asked to make your way to the reception building across from the parking area upon your arrival, which is signed posted for. [REDACTED] can be contacted on number [REDACTED] if there are any difficulties.

SUMMARY PAGE

Purpose of the meeting

[REDACTED]. AIC wish to discuss:

- The role of AIC members in providing emissions reduction advice to farmers
- Adoption of green technologies in Scotland – the positive benefits of precision breeding techniques
- Ensuring that the GB PPP regime will not stifle sustainable crop production
- Measuring the uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Support for productivity measures which help reduce emissions
- Common Frameworks in key areas such as feed, seed and pesticides regulations

Background to the Agricultural Industries Confederation

- The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) is the leading trade association in the agrisupply industry representing the following sectors: animal fed, crop protection and agronomy, fertilisers, grain and oilseeds, and seed.
- AIC has over 200 members, and represents approximately £8 billion turnover at farmgate. Members in Scotland are represented by a number of sector-specific Scottish committees and there is a dedicated AIC Scotland policy officer ([REDACTED] – see **Annex D**, 'Attendees').
- AIC states its own aims are to: “promote the benefits of modern commercial agriculture in the UK and supports collaboration throughout the food chain.”
- AIC recently published its own roadmap towards net zero and sustainability.
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS) regularly attends the AIC and AIC Scotland feed sector trade association meetings, and participates in discussions on feed matters which impact the Scottish feed sector.

[REDACTED]

LINES TO TAKE

'Precision breeding'/GMOs and gene editing

Issue: New breeding techniques like gene editing are scientifically distinct to the original GMO techniques but fall under the restrictive GMO regulations. These techniques are much faster and more precise than traditional breeding methods and farming industries (including AIC) see that they offer solutions to environmental and productivity challenges. Defra and the EU are reviewing their legislation and Scotland is coming under pressure to do the same.

Lines to take:

- Scotland remains opposed to the use of GM in farming, to protect the clean, green brand of Scotland's £15 billion food and drink industry, and gene editing falls under GM legislation.
- We are aware of the current discussions around the technologies defined as GM, and we note in particular the conversations happening at EU level following the publication of the Commission's study on novel genomic techniques and their subsequent decision to consult on a new legal framework for these technologies. We are considering the implications for Scotland.

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX C

EVENT AGENDA

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX D

ATTENDEES

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX E

[REDACTED]