

CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS
Briefing for visit to Invergowrie 7th February 2022

What	Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS) have invited you visit their site at JHI in follow-up to your meeting at COP26. Since they are based at Invergowrie, you will first meet separately with the JHI itself and then with another vertical farming company, Liberty Produce, also based at the JHI. Therefore, this will be a three-part visit in the order: JHI, Liberty Produce, IGS.
Where	James Hutton Institute Invergowrie Dundee DD2 5DA
When	Monday 7 th February, 09.45 – 12.05
Key Message(s)	[REDACTED]
Who	[REDACTED]
Why	[REDACTED]
Supporting officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED]
Briefing contents	[REDACTED]
Media Handling	[REDACTED]
Social Media	[REDACTED]
Dress code	[REDACTED]
Greeting party and specific meeting point on arrival	[REDACTED]
Arrival arrangements (inc. COVID safety)	[REDACTED]

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ANNEX A

SUMMARY

[REDACTED]

TOP LINES

[REDACTED]

SENSITIVE TOPICS WHICH MAY ARISE

'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 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. On 20 January 2022 Defra announced the laying of legislation to make it easier to do research and development for plants produced with some gene editing techniques. Gene editing work is carried out at JHI, notably at the International Barley Hub, and JHI scientists have welcomed the announcement from Defra.

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 current debate around novel genomic techniques and how these relate to existing GM legislation, and we note in particular the ongoing consideration of this at EU level. The Scottish Government's policy is to stay aligned, where practicable, with the EU, and we are closely monitoring the EU's position on this issue.

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ANNEX C

EVENT PROGRAMME

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX D

ATTENDEES

[REDACTED]ANNEX E

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX F

[REDACTED]

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ANNEX I

[REDACTED]