

From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 March 2021 09:34

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Note of Meeting - 18th Feb - Suckler Beef policy proposals - Cabinet Secretary RET and SG officials

PO/Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism,

Please find attached a note of the meeting between Mr Ewing and officials regarding Suckler Beef policy proposals on 18th February 2021,

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government | D Spur, Saughton House | Edinburgh EH11 3XD

Tel: [redacted] | Mob: [redacted] | e: [redacted]@gov.scot

From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 February 2021 11:27

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

Private office,

In answer to Mr Ewings follow up question:

The board received a presentation from [redacted] on the 21st December setting out the Climate change Plan update including the scale and pace of the agriculture envelopes. In the presentation she stated that the pace of emissions reductions necessary would require to be 4 times faster than in the past ten years.

Papers from SRUC prepared to support the suckler beef work have been clear about the scale of emissions possible from the proposed suckler beef scheme and the implications for livestock numbers. For example in their Implications for Cattle Numbers report they state:

“Specifically, to avoid the risk of aggregate Scottish beef emissions increasing, some (but not all) actions to improve production efficiency need to be accompanied by reductions in cattle numbers.”

SRUC+Report+-
+Estimated+Suckler+Beef+Climate+Scheme+implications+for+cattle+numbers+FINAL.pdf
(www.gov.scot)

As regards the specific reductions possible from the scheme that follow from [redacted]'s clarification of the proposals and his envisaged uptake of the scheme, these were only calculated, with the assistance of SRUC, in the last week (once [redacted] views were clear on this point) in formulating our advice to you. The implications this has on the impact on livestock numbers in beef and other parts of agriculture has not yet been discussed with the board but is an important issue to be addressed as we have said in our advice to you. This issue should be discussed with the beef board and by the other farmer led groups.

Officials will prepare a discussion paper for the suckler beef board covering this and other outstanding issues for board consideration.

John

John Kerr | Head of Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government
D Spur, Saughton House Edinburgh EH11 3XD | Tel: [redacted] | Mobile [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

From: [redacted] @gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Sent: 22 February 2021 10:36
To: Kerr J (John) <[redacted] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

John

Mr Ewing has noted and ask if this has been shared with the Programme Board prior to the current meeting?

Kind regards

[redacted]
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
2N.08
St Andrews House
☎ [redacted]
☎ [redacted]

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From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 February 2021 10:23

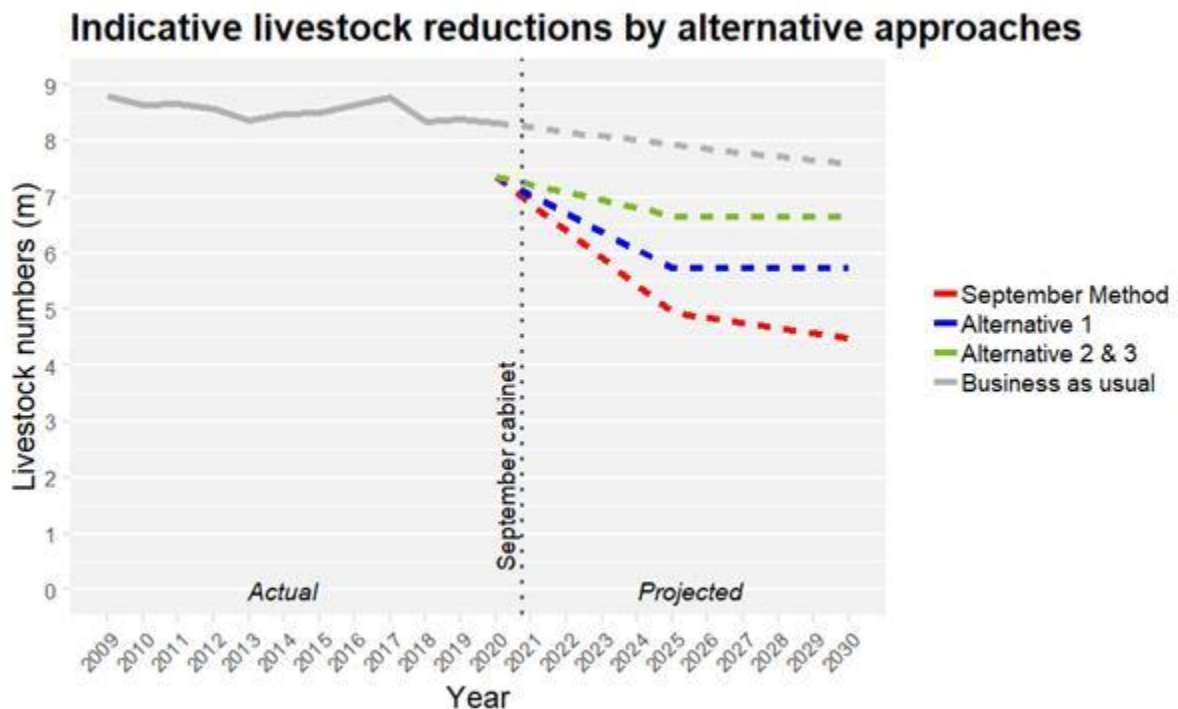
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

[redacted],

In answer to Mr Ewing's question: yes officials have been working closely on what the implications of the beef work means for livestock numbers taking account of the historic trend (principally cattle and sheep). Cab Sec may recall the chart below which officials provided in September as the Climate Change Plan update was being developed.



We now know that the agricultural envelope requires livestock to follow the green line. As Cab sec has indicated the status quo is a c. 12% decline over the last ten years. Whereas what is needed is c. 20% reduction.

Officials are working to refine these numbers based on the clarified proposals discussed with [redacted].

John

John Kerr | Head of Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government

D Spur, Saughton House Edinburgh EH11 3XD | Tel: [redacted] | Mobile [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Sent: 22 February 2021 09:14
To: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

John

Mr Ewing notes the attached link which indicates cattle numbers are going down. Can you advise whether this was considered in the advice provided last week?

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/provisional-results-scottish-agricultural-census-june-2020/pages/9/>

Kind regards

[redacted]
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
2N.08
St Andrews House
☎ [redacted]
☎ [redacted]

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From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 February 2021 17:14
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

Cabinet Secretary,

Thank you for the discussion on Thursday afternoon about the Sucker beef Climate Scheme and my note to you on that subject. We will provide you with a full note of the meeting early next week.

During the discussion you indicated that you wish to proceed with an announcement about the way forward for the beef scheme prior to the election recess on the 25th of March.

You expressed concern that the submission did not provide options to allow for the announcement to take place. You asked officials to work up options that take account of the issues raised in the submission in order that these can be overcome.

In particular you signalled that you would be willing to consider how a mechanism that controls livestock numbers could be built into the scheme. You also indicated that an option which allows some farmers to step back from livestock rearing could also be considered and this may be based on payment to remove cattle (rather payments for land or entitlements).

You indicated that you expect that private investment in land for carbon (e.g. tree planting) will provide the means for land use change but acknowledged that when this happens at scale is not known at this stage, hence your willingness to look again at assisting those beef farmers eager to step back now with some form of targeted support to do so.

You indicated that a scheme which seeks to get on with rolling out the proposals around conditionality and baselining (paragraph 15 in the submission) could be applied to all of agriculture now. You wished officials to proceed to give further advice on how that could be done.

Officials are now working on providing you with options based on your thoughts above and will bring these to you in early course. Officials have already had further conversations with **[redacted]**.

There is a further meeting of the suckler beef programme board on Monday. The focus of this will be on the enrolment gateway. This allows time to develop a policy paper based on the clarified points from **[redacted]** combined with your steer above to be prepared for consideration by you and then the board at their next meeting after Monday.

One final point to mention is that there was a very productive meeting of the Sector Group Chairs today during which there was a clear appetite from all sectors to be involved in the communications with the industry around any announcement in March and also an appetite particularly from the Dairy Group to be involved in the enrolment and baselining from the start.

John Kerr

<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <[redacted]@gov.scot>; DG Economy
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy
Director of ISD <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Voas S (Sheila)
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Burgess WG (George) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Harrison F (Fiona)
[redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural
Economy & Environment <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Ministerial Submission - Suckler Beef Climate Scheme advice

PO Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism,

CC: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Minister for
Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment (both for portfolio interest), Deputy First
Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (for general awareness).

Please find attached submission regarding the proposed Suckler Beef Climate Scheme
following detailed discussions between the Suckler Beef Programme Board Co-chair
[redacted] and officials on how he envisages the scheme would operate. The submission sets
out our understandings from these discussions and notes areas that the Cabinet Secretary
may want to consider ahead of the next board meeting (22nd Feb) and any implementation.

Officials would be happy to discuss this further as required,

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government | D Spur, Saughton House | Edinburgh EH11 3XD

Tel: [redacted] | Mob: [redacted] | e: [redacted]@gov.scot

From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 January 2021 15:07

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Sustainable
Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; DG Economy <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
zzzMinister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director
of ISD <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Sent: 20 January 2021 18:01
To: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

Great, thanks.

[redacted]
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
2N.08
St Andrews House
📞 [redacted]
📞 [redacted]

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From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 January 2021 18:00
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>[redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

Hi [redacted],

Yes this has been collated during the course of today and is being finalised now, we will have it with you as soon as we can.

John

John Kerr | Head of Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government
D Spur, Saughton House Edinburgh EH11 3XD | Tel: [redacted] | Mobile [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

From[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Sent: 20 January 2021 17:57
To: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

John

Are you providing any advice or papers for the call tomorrow morning?

Thanks

[redacted]

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism

2N.08

St Andrews House

☎ [redacted]

☎ [redacted]

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From: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 January 2021 14:43

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

Thanks [redacted],

[redacted] sent these documents to the team a short time ago and officials are considering them now.

John

John Kerr | Head of Agriculture Policy Division | The Scottish Government

D Spur, Saughton House Edinburgh EH11 3XD | Tel: [redacted] | Mobile [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism

Sent: 19 January 2021 14:22

To: Kerr J (John) <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Director of Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

Importance: High

John

See below and attached which you may already have been provided.

Mr Ewing would welcome initial thoughts before the call on Thursday.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
2N.08
St Andrews House

📞 [redacted]

📞 [redacted] **All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.**

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From: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP <[redacted]>

Sent: 19 January 2021 14:18

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]

Date: 19 January 2021 at 14:08:27 GMT

To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP" [redacted] [redacted]

Subject: Fwd: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

As requested.

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]

Date: 19 January 2021 at 14:07:20 GMT

To: [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]

Subject: Fwd: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

All, here is the latest iteration of the proposal for the introductory phases of the Suckler Beef Climate Scheme. We have tried to reflect as many changes from your comments/ideas as possible. I felt it important that we got these, and other working documents in front of Scot Gov officials ASAP with time being short.

It is important to note that these are intended to form the basis of the scheme not the final scheme itself. We still have time to shape that, but we need Scot Gov feedback first before we get too hung up on all the individual proposals or ideas.

The handling of this is as tricky as the design as I'm sure you understand. Happy to receive further comments now, or wait for feedback from Scot Gov then we can assess where we are and what needs tweaked/changed.

Thanks for all your considerable efforts and input so far it's much appreciated. I'll circulate a phase 3 draft in the next couple of days.

Cheers

[redacted]
[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]

Date: 19 January 2021 at 13:58:13 GMT

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: Fwd: Phases 1 and 2, final versions for discussion.

[redacted], phases 1 and 2 documents as promised. Phase 3 with you by the end of the week. These proposals should be considered alongside the paper I sent you yesterday.

Thanks.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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