

MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP AND CABINET SECRETARY MAIRI GOUGEON MSP

17 October 2022, SIAL, Paris

A brief introductory meeting took place between the Secretary of State and Cabinet Secretary during the SIAL trade show in Paris. Due to diary constraints, it lasted <10 minutes.

Present:

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & Islands
George Burgess, Director of Agriculture & Rural Economy, Scottish Government
(redacted text) Deputy Private Secretary, Scottish Government

Ranil Jayawardena MP, Secretary of State, Defra
[Various Defra and UKG officials – no introductions given time constraints]

Discussion:

Introductions. Good to meet, albeit briefly. Keen to work together.

MG: concerns about work on REUL.

RJ: Not reducing environmental standards, but improve process. Example given of abattoirs, where seek to maintain outcome and animal welfare, but look at process. Look to retain and improve REUL.

MG: query about allocation of responsibilities in Defra

RJ: not locked down Ministerial portfolios. Mark Spencer Minister for Food, also leading on fisheries negotiations. Scott Mann Minister for growth and exports. Keen to delegate from Secretary of State to Ministers.

MG: SG keen to have discussion on Extended Producer Responsibility.

RJ: Keen to celebrate success.

From: (redacted text)

Sent: 14 October 2022 14:12

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food & Drink <DeputyDirectorofFood&Drink@gov.scot>; (redacted text)

Subject: RE: Draft Briefing - Mairi Gougeon - Paris Visit - October 2022

Hi (redacted text)

Please see updated "final" briefing pack above. I know you need to print this off asap. Huge thanks to (redacted text) in Paris for their input and advice, and to (redacted text) for all Red Meat/QMS materials. Speaking note also reattached for ease. ERDM link to the briefing pack only, for copy list recipients if needed:
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A40932071/details>

As discussed there is still a TBC around any potential meeting with the Secretary of State. UKG will advise you if that is possible and we have included some briefing in case that goes ahead. Give me a shout if you need anything else.

Bon voyage!
(redacted text)

(REDACTED TEXT) | Policy Manager | *Food & Drink Industry Growth Team* | *Scottish Government* |
Blackberry: (redacted text)

From(redacted text)

Sent: 12 October 2022 17:15

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food & Drink <DeputyDirectorofFood&Drink@gov.scot>; (redacted text)

Subject: Draft Briefing - Mairi Gougeon - Paris Visit - October 2022

Hi (redacted text)

As discussed, please see a draft version of the briefing as things stand for Ms Gougeon's visit to Paris. There are obviously a number of TBC's marked in yellow and further info to be added – we will update over the next 48 hours and send up a final pack ASAP once things become clear and info becomes available.

Also attached separately is a speaking note for the QMS lunch on the Monday (thanks to (redacted text), cc'd, for this).

Let us know if you need any more info just now.

Thanks
(redacted text)

EWAN SCOTT | Policy Manager | *Food & Drink Industry Growth Team* | *Scottish Government* | **Blackberry:**
(redacted text)

Thanks

(redacted text)|Livestock Policy|B1-1 Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive,Edinburgh,EH11SXD|(redacted text)

CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

Briefing for Visit to Paris

What	(redacted text) The Cabinet Secretary may also have an opportunity to meet with UKG Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (TBC), (redacted text)
Where	(redacted text)
When	• (redacted text)
Who	• (redacted text) • UKG Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Ranil Jayawardena (TBC) • (redacted text)
Why	(redacted text) The visit may allow the Cabinet Secretary the opportunity to have a short introductory meeting with UKG Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (TBC). (redacted text)
Supporting official	George Burgess – Director for Agriculture and Rural Economy (redacted text) (redacted text)
Briefing contents	Annex A: (redacted text) Annex B: (redacted text) Annex C: (redacted text) Annex D: (redacted text) Annex E: Meeting with Secretary of State For Environment, Food And Rural Affairs (pages 7-9) Annex F: (redacted text) Annex G: (redacted text) Annex H: (redacted text) Annex I: (redacted text) Annex J: (redacted text) Annex K: (redacted text) Annex L: (redacted text) Annex M: (redacted text) Annex N: (redacted text)

(redacted text)

MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (TBC)

When: Monday 17 October, 12:00 – 12:10.

Where: SIAL VIP corner, Hall 6

Purpose: Opportunity for a short introductory meeting with the new Secretary of State. A copy of Ms Gougeon's letter of 8 September 2022 to Mr. Jayawardena is attached below for reference.

Contact: (redacted text) Private Secretary to the Secretary of State (redacted text)

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena MP

Ranil was appointed Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 6 September 2022. Previously he was Minister for International Trade from May 2020 to September 2022. He was elected as the Conservative MP for North East Hampshire in 2015. Ranil went to his local comprehensive school in north east Hampshire and studied government at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Ranil entered Parliament representing his home constituency in 2015, and was re-elected in 2017 and 2019. Before serving as a minister, he was a member of the International Trade, Home Affairs, Procedure and Arms Export Controls Committees, and had been appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons to the Chairmen's Panel.

He was also made Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party by the Prime Minister. Prior to his election to Parliament, he was a councillor, serving as deputy leader of the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane.

Ranil combined his service in local government with working for Lloyds Banking Group plc and is a freeman of the City of London. He also has wide ranging commercial experience from the pharmaceutical, construction, transport and leisure sectors. Ranil is married with a son and 2 daughters.



Specific responsibilities include:

- oversight of trade mandates and post-transition delivery and policy programme,
- international relations
- emergencies
- overall Departmental administration
- senior appointments

Recent letter from Cabinet Secretary RAI to Secretary of State EFRA

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Mairi Gougeon MSP



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ranil Jayawardena MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs
Department for Food, Environment and Rural
Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

8 September 2022

Dear Ranil,

I write to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I look forward to meeting you at the Inter-Ministerial Group on Monday morning and working with you on a number of critical issues relevant to our portfolios.

As we face the cost crisis I believe the public will expect the UK and Scottish Government to work as effectively and efficiently as possible to ensure our resources target those who need it most and we avoid duplicating efforts. Since the referendum on EU exit, the approach of the UK Government, under successive Prime Ministers, has damaged both the relationships between the governments of the United Kingdom, and the structures put in place to ensure effective devolution within the UK's constitutional arrangements. These relationships and structures depend on an approach based on mutual respect for the responsibilities of each government. When that respect is absent, we have seen that there are no effective safeguards to prevent devolved institutions being undermined and bypassed by the UK Government and Westminster Parliament.

The cost crisis was the central theme of Scotland's Programme for Government 2022-23 published this week. In their letters to the Prime Minister and Chancellor this week, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister reiterated the scale of the crisis and set out the urgent actions that we are calling upon the UK Government to take to support those who are struggling. I would welcome the chance to raise with you the impact on rural and island communities in particular, and the support that they will need in the coming period.

Food security is a key concern. In response to the series of significant food and drink supply chain shocks from COVID-19, EU Exit and the situation in Ukraine, The Scottish Government set up a Short-life Food Security and Supply Taskforce together with industry, in March this year. The Taskforce worked rapidly to produce its report in June which recognised that the UK Government holds many of the levers that can help to address many of the food security issues that are affecting the sector. I would welcome an early opportunity to discuss these recommendations with you.

I am deeply concerned about the UK Government's proposed Bill on retained EU law. I believe the Bill will not only enable the undermining of standards that protect Scottish interests, but will have major implications for devolved competence. While I recognise and welcome the ongoing dialogue between our officials in this space, I would urge continued close and timely engagement on this extensive programme of work, especially as there remains no clear indication of the overall aims of this Bill. I will note that aiming to replace and/or remove all REUL from the UK statute book is a very significant commitment which would require very significant amounts of legislative resource which I could not support given the many other immediate priorities which must be addressed.

Further, the potential implications for the devolved settlement would need very careful unpicking, particularly regarding the links through to UKIM. With a not insignificant risk of leaving a very unclear and challenging legal landscape for administrations and stakeholders alike to navigate.

The United Kingdom Internal Market Act presents a number of challenges to all UK administrations taking forward policy, given the wide range of challenges any stakeholder can bring to any administration's policy. I believe we should work together on this issue and consider how best to use the exclusions process contained within the Act in order to ensure policy stability for all UK administrations.

We are laying the groundwork for a programme of strategic nature enhancement measures to be delivered alongside the development of offshore wind developments. We are also enabling marine enhancement projects to promote marine habitat recovery and nature-based solutions to climate change through investments made from the Scottish Marine Environment Enhancement Fund (SMEEF). This is an area where I will be seeking to work with you to achieve greater alignment around financial investment to prevent duplication of effort.

As you may be aware, in fisheries policy, the last quarter of the year is dominated by the annual fisheries negotiations. Traditionally our administrations have worked well together in order to ensure we agree TACs set at sustainable levels without disproportionately disadvantaging our fishermen in respect to those from other nations. Also, our administrations have worked together productively in the drafting of the Joint Fisheries Statement and in the development of Fisheries Management Plans. I look forward to continuing this positive working relationship with you.

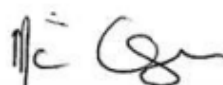
I would also welcome the opportunity to engage with you - as I have done with your predecessors - on opportunities to press for reform of UK immigration rules; including ending the wholly inappropriate use of transit visas as a means of accessing non-UK labour in the fishing industry. Ending this route, and establishing an appropriate work permit regime as an alternative, is vital to ensure that all parts of the Scottish fishing industry are able to access labour equitably, that all fishers are paid fairly regardless of national origin, and to ensure that no-one working in the fishing industry is left vulnerable to maltreatment and exploitation.

In Agriculture, we are undertaking a transition to a new and more integrated rural land use regulatory and support framework, with agricultural support that allows farmers and crofters to meet climate response targets, improve biodiversity and also provides a just transition to a sustainable economic future.

Agriculture requires long-term certainty of funding, as farmers, crofters and land managers need lead-in time to undertake action; it creates multi-annual funding commitments and it delivers long-term outcomes. EU Exit means we no longer have this certainty and unilateral choices imposed by HM Treasury provide insufficient replacement EU budget. In September 2019, the UK Government accepted the Bew Review recommendation to "work with the devolved administrations to develop an approach to future funding allocations... recognising that agriculture policy is and will remain devolved" and this was reiterated in a letter from Mr Eustice in November 2020 stating that "we are keen to agree a process of engagement ahead of the next Spending Review to address this issue from 2022/23 onwards". This has not happened, and I am keen to engage with you and our counterparts in the other devolved administrations on taking this action forward.

Given the gravity of the situation confronting EFRA-facing sectors as outlined above, I believe the Inter-Ministerial Group meeting scheduled for Monday would be an ideal first opportunity to meet and discuss some of these important issues.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

FROM: CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND ISLANDS

**TO: First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs**

SIAL – Paris FoodTrade Show - 16 – 18 October 2022

Brief Overview

I visited Paris from the 16 October – 18 October, to attend the SIAL Trade show. SIAL Paris is the world's largest international food trade show with around 7000 exhibitors from 119 countries in attendance. My attendance at the event gave the opportunity to show support to the Scottish meat exporters who were at SIAL as part of the Quality Meat Scotland stand and delegation, as well as meeting other Scottish businesses attending SIAL. In addition, this allowed an opportunity for a very short introductory meeting with Ranil Jayawardena MP, who was at the time the new Defra Secretary of State.

(redacted text)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands