

22 September 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead<Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04
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Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

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Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
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 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; Stefan Hoyte <Stefan.Hoyte@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.

You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

25 Sep 2025 – Email Chain

From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
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See attached with comments. [Redacted S30(b)(i)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot



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 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>;
Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &
Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT
<DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and
Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data
Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted - S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted – S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

29 Sep 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 29 September 2025 10:58
To: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

[Redacted S10(4)e]

Grateful for a response ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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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.

From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[Redacted S30(b)(ii)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
 - (iii) reduce nitrogen loss and waste,
 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
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- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>;
Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &
Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT
<DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and
Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data
Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

1 Oct 25 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 01 October 2025 12:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM versions:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

Sent: 29 September 2025 10:58
To: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Grateful for a response ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. Read more about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences here

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From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[Redacted S30(b)(ii)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
 - (iii) reduce nitrogen loss and waste,
 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.

You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>;
Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &
Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT
<DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and
Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data
Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted S(27)(1)]
- [Redacted S(27)(1)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

2 Oct 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 02 October 2025 09:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

He has not.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 02 October 2025 08:42
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

[redacted]

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon asks, Has Mr Fairlie fed back on the RSP yet? If so, she would be grateful to see his feedback before making a decision.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 01 October 2025 12:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry

<director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary

I attach a revised version of the Rural Support Plan.

[redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM versions:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

Sent: 29 September 2025 10:58

To: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink

<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Grateful for a response ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S30(b)(ii)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer

<CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. Read more about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences [here](#)

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.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
 - (iii) reduce nitrogen loss and waste,
 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.

You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).

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.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>;
Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &
Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT
<DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and
Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data
Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

06 Oct 25 – email chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>;
Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer
<CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy
<CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



06 Oct 25 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>;

Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



9 Oct 25 – email chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 October 2025 08:27
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Morning [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

We are content that the STFA are well represented via FAST, especially as [redacted S.38(1)(b)] is [redacted.38(1)(b)] and he was an active participant in last week's in-person meeting with officials on policy principles. However, I will discuss this with [redacted S.38(1)(b)] as I'm meeting with him (and [redacted S.38(1)(b)]) this morning (partly to agree a date for the Rural Support Plan call).

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 08 October 2025 15:52
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Mr Fairlie asks about STFA – are they represented appropriately? Minister thinks they are FAST members but comments that we need to ensure they are content with their views being adequately engaged.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: MinisterforAC@gov.scot

T: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy
<CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



13 Oct 2025 Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 13 October 2025 18:31
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy
<CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
<CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy
<DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head
of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy
<DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer
<CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Evening Minister, Cabinet Secretary

To address the points raised:

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@ | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government | * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 10 October 2025 12:31
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Good afternoon,

Mr Fairlie has provided feedback:

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Mr Fairlie would like this to be done at pace given this is to be presented to Committee in less than 8 weeks' time.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Transport – Fiona Hyslop MSP
| Scottish Government | [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | cabsecfortransport@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 02 October 2025 09:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

He has not.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 02 October 2025 08:42
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon asks, Has Mr Fairlie fed back on the RSP yet? If so, she would be grateful to see his feedback before making a decision.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. Read more about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences [here](#)

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 01 October 2025 12:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry

<director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary

I attach a revised version of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM versions:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

Sent: 29 September 2025 10:58

To: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Grateful for a response ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[Redacted S30(b)(ii)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot



Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34

To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
 - (iii) reduce nitrogen loss and waste,
 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.

You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>;
Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment &
Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT
<DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and
Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data
Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink
<DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

21 Oct 25 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 21 October 2025 15:15
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Mr Fairlie has noted and asks when the larger group is due to meet, adding that this should be done at pace.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] (she/her)

Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: **MinisterforAC@gov.scot**

T: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 October 2025 11:04
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Morning [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

To confirm that we have just concluded a positive meeting with the APDG (although [redacted S.38(1)(b)] was on leave) on the Rural Support Plan and a note will follow. That meeting was arranged prior to the instruction from Mr Fairlie (your email of 9 October) and arrangements are being made to meet with the bigger group in the terms outlined by the Minister.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 20 October 2025 10:57
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Mr Fairlie is content with the timeline.

The Minister notes engagement with ADPG but would like confirmation if this is the same group he asked [redacted S.38(1)(b)] to establish?

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: MinisterforAC@gov.scot

T: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 14 October 2025 15:07
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

The revised Rural Support Plan timeline, including agreed external engagement, is attached for reference.

eRDM version: [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 13 October 2025 18:31
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Evening Minister, Cabinet Secretary

To address the points raised:

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 10 October 2025 12:31
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Good afternoon,

Mr Fairlie has provided feedback:

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Mr Fairlie would like this to be done at pace given this is to be presented to Committee in less than 8 weeks' time.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Transport – Fiona Hyslop MSP
| Scottish Government | [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | cabsecfortransport@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 02 October 2025 09:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

He has not.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 02 October 2025 08:42
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon asks, Has Mr Fairlie fed back on the RSP yet? If so, she would be grateful to see his feedback before making a decision.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 01 October 2025 12:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary

I attach a revised version of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM versions:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 29 September 2025 10:58
To: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Grateful for a response ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[Redacted S30(b)(ii)]

Ian Muirhead

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

lan.Muirhead@gov.scot



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 22 September 2025 13:34
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <lan.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <lan.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >
Subject: FW: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Finally, she would be grateful if @Ian Muirhead and Mr Fairlie could also provide their comments.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:04
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Second question first; yes, both Word docs together are the RSP draft. Formatting keeping them as separate pieces just now.

On first question; I have attached screen shots of the relevant Sections of the ARC Act here for ease of reference. Link also here; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/11/contents/enacted>

2 Rural support plan

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) prepare a plan (a “rural support plan”) giving information about the expected use during the plan period of the powers conferred on them by section 6, and
 - (b) exercise their functions under this Act having regard to that plan.
- (2) A rural support plan must set out—
 - (a) the plan period,
 - (b) the Scottish Ministers’ strategic priorities for providing support during the plan period,
 - (c) an overview of the support expected to be provided during the plan period, including—
 - (i) an indication of the total amount of support that is expected to be provided over the period,
 - (ii) a description of the way in which support is to be structured (for example, by reference to support schemes that are to be paid in a certain way or for certain purposes or activities),
 - (iii) an indication of how the total amount of support is to be divided between support schemes,
 - (iv) an indication of the time periods for when particular support schemes may become operational or end,
 - (v) any measures that are intended to benefit small producers, tenant farmers and crofters, and
 - (vi) any specific outcomes that the Scottish Ministers are seeking to achieve (whether in respect of different support schemes or otherwise),
 - (d) in such manner and giving such detail as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate, a description of each support scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Scottish Ministers expect to come into operation during the plan period, and
 - (e) the manner in which the impact of each support scheme will be monitored for the purposes of [section 21](#).
- (3) A rural support plan may—
 - (a) describe how the Scottish Ministers consider the support provided under the plan will—
 - (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of section 10 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) from agriculture,
 - (ii) reduce harm from pesticides,
 - (iii) reduce nitrogen loss and waste,
 - (iv) optimise the proportion of land which is farmed organically,
 - (v) optimise the proportion of land which is used for agroforestry,
 - (vi) improve the biodiversity of agricultural land, including the contribution of agriculture to landscape-scale nature recovery,
 - (vii) protect and improve the welfare conditions of farmed animals,

- (viii) improve the quality of ground and surface water, and
 - (b) include such further information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before the Scottish Parliament, and published, by the Scottish Ministers—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable after this section comes into force, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 6 months before the end of the plan period of the preceding plan.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may amend the rural support plan within the plan period if—
 - (a) their strategic priorities for providing support change, or
 - (b) it appears to them that any information set out in the plan in accordance with subsection (2)(d) has ceased to be accurate and complete.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers amend a plan, they must as soon as reasonably practicable—
 - (a) lay the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish it.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, the “plan period” is the period to which the plan relates and—
 - (a) in the case of the first plan, is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which it is published,
 - (b) in the case of each subsequent plan, is the period of five years beginning on the day after the preceding plan period ends.
- (8) The plan period of a rural support plan is not affected by the Scottish Ministers amending the plan under subsection (5).
- (9) A reference in this Act to the rural support plan is (unless the context otherwise requires) a reference to the plan which has most recently been published under this section.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, “support scheme” means a scheme operated by the Scottish Ministers for the provision of support under or by virtue of this Act.
- (11) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (3) to add, adjust or remove information that may be included in a rural support plan.
- (12) Regulations under subsection (11) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

3 Rural support plan: matters to be considered

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following matters when preparing or amending a rural support plan under section 2.

- (2) The matters are—
- (a) the objectives set out in section 1,
 - (b) the proposals and policies contained in the climate change plan which relate to agriculture, forestry and rural land use,
 - (c) any other statutory duty of the Scottish Ministers relating to agriculture, forestry, rural land use, biodiversity or the environment,
 - (d) developments in the law and policy of the European Union,
 - (e) the desirability of the agricultural sector operating with fair work principles,
 - (f) the objectives of a plan produced under section 1 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022,
 - (g) the need for sustainable food systems and supply chains in delivering food security,
 - (h) the benefits of a diverse and resilient agricultural sector including small producers, tenant farmers, crofters and agricultural co-operative societies.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the “climate change plan” means the plan laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify this section to add, adjust or remove a matter to which regard must be had.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) are subject to the affirmative procedure.

4 Rural support plan: engagement

- (1) Subsection (2) applies when the Scottish Ministers are preparing a rural support plan.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons as they consider representative of the interests of—
 - (i) farmers (including tenant farmers), crofters and land managers,
 - (ii) people who live and work in rural communities,
 - (b) Food Standards Scotland,
 - (c) Historic Environment Scotland,
 - (d) Scottish Environment Protection Agency,
 - (e) Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - (f) the Scottish Food Commission, and
 - (g) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies when the Scottish Ministers amend the rural support plan.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in or be affected by the amendments to the rural support plan.
- (5) At the same time as laying the rural support plan or the amended plan before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement describing the consultation undertaken in respect of the plan (or amendment).

5 Reports on rural support plan

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each plan period under section 2, the Scottish Ministers must prepare a report.
- (2) The report must include—
 - (a) the total amount of support or other relevant assistance provided during the plan period (including the monetary value of any support provided otherwise than as financial support),
 - (b) the amount of support provided—
 - (i) under each support scheme in operation during the period,
 - (ii) otherwise than under a support scheme,
 - (iii) to third party schemes,
 - (c) a description of the way in which any support provided otherwise than as financial support has been provided,
 - (d) the distribution of support provided (including geographically and by sector),
 - (e) the Scottish Ministers' assessment of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of the strategic priorities set out in the rural support plan,
 - (ii) whether any specific outcomes contained in the rural support plan have been achieved,
 - (iii) the progress made (if any) in respect of the objectives set out in section 1, and
 - (iv) the impact of any exercise of their powers under section 11, including by reference to the amount of support that would otherwise have been provided.
- (3) The report may also contain such other information as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may also prepare—
 - (a) interim reports about the amount of support provided during any period within a plan period,
 - (b) other reports about the support that has been provided.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (6) In this section, "relevant assistance" means financial assistance provided by the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of another enactment (including, in particular, assimilated law governing the CAP direct payment schemes and assimilated direct CAP legislation for a purpose similar to a purpose described in schedule 1).

Best,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit

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

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)] | e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 18 September 2025 11:48
To: CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Draft Rural Support Plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms Gougeon has asked if she could get a copy of the legislative requirements for the RSP too please?

Cab Sec has also asked if the intention is to publish the tier support section?

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] **Deputy Private Secretary**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP

Mobile: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.

You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).

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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CAP & SRDP Policy
Sent: 16 September 2025 18:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; ARE Head of Finance <AREHoF@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of Food and Drink <DeputyDirectorofFoodandDrink@gov.scot>; Deputy Director SASA <DDSASA@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Draft Rural Support Plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister

I enclose the working draft of the Rural Support Plan.

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

eRDM files:

- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]
- [Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government
| * email: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

24 Oct 25 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 October 2025 12:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>;
Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer
<CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy
<CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | 07979 980661



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform
& Islands 2024
Sent: 07 October 2025 10:06
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
<CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>;
Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer

<CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy
<CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi
Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

**The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. Read more
about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences here**

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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.

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>;

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



03 Nov 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 03 November 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 03 November 2025 08:27
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms. Gougeon has noted, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 October 2025 12:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot> [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 07 October 2025 10:06
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



12 Nov 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 November 2025 08:19
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 10 November 2025 10:40
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Mr Fairlie has noted.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: **MinisterforAC@gov.scot**

T: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>
Sent: 03 November 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted

S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 03 November 2025 08:27
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Ms. Gougeon has noted, thanks.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

e-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 October 2025 12:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024
Sent: 07 October 2025 10:06
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]s

E-mail: cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

Cabinet Secretary, Minister,

[Redacted S10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 September 2025 13:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer <CDDO.ARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>

Subject: ARE - ARP - stakeholder engagement plan

PO,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] | ARE: Agricultural Reform Programme | [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



20 Nov 2025 – Email chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 November 2025 11:28
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: RAIC - rural support plan

Tel: +[redacted S.38(1)(b)]| e: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: 20 November 2025 10:24
To: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: RAIC - rural support plan

Hi everyone,

See below from committee clerks – grateful if you can confirm lines for Private Office to respond with please.

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@

Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: MinisterforAC@gov.scot

M: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]



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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 20 November 2025 10:08
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@Parliament.scot>; Rural Affairs and Islands Committee <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>
Subject: RAIC - rural support plan

Dear private offices,

[Redacted S29(1)(a)]

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Clerk to the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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20 Nov 2025 – Email Chain

From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>
Sent: 20 November 2025 14:51
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>

and Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; <[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CAP & SRDP Policy <CAP.SRDP.Policy@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Rural Support Plan - Final draft for approval

Good afternoon,

Grateful if the plan can be sent with tracked changes with revisions from the first draft.

Many thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands - Mairi Gougeon MSP

2nd Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

| cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot | **M:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 November 2025 13:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Ian Muirhead <Ian.Muirhead@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DD ALT <DDALT@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; ARP Admin Team <AgriculturalReformProgrammeAdmin@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

