



Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By Email

27 July 2023

Dear Finlay,

Thank you for your letter, dated 11 July, inviting me to attend your Rural Affairs and Islands Committee to discuss the development of agriculture and fisheries policy within the UK following the UK's departure from the EU.

The development of these policies is a matter for which the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have overall responsibility, and therefore would be best placed to give evidence on these important issues from a UK Government perspective.

I hope you will therefore understand that I must decline this invitation, and suggest you revisit the possibility of inviting a DEFRA Minister to attend.

*Yours sincerely,
Alister*

**THE RT HON. ALISTER JACK MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**