

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

22 April 2024

Dear Finlay

**British Wool Marketing Board: The British Wool Marketing Scheme
(Amendment) Order 2024**

I am writing to inform the committee that the Scottish Ministers have been asked by the UK Government for consent to the above SI, which amends the British Wool Marketing Scheme (Approval) Order 1950.

The British Wool Marketing Board (BW) is a public, non-financial corporation established by the British Wool Marketing Scheme (Approval) Order 1950. It is designated as a cross-border public authority. The Scheme allows the organisation to collect, grade and sell wool from across the UK on behalf of producer members.

Following a review agreed by all UK administrations, it was concluded that BW continues to provide an important service to the wool sector across the UK, not only in its ability to collect wool across the, but also in delivering shearing courses, promoting, and marketing UK wool as a high-quality product and developing new and innovative uses for British fleeces.

One of the recommendations from the review was that BW were to consult with producers on potential amendments to the 1950 Order. This has been carried out and a draft SI has been produced, which will be laid in the UK Parliament during May 2024. The changes to the 1950 Order are technical and administrative, bringing the Board's processes more up to date.

They enable decisions to be taken and meetings held by electronic, digital, or virtual means; allow additional members to be appointed to BW to expand its expertise; remove the age limit for regional Board members and country representatives and bring the timetable for producing annual accounts in line with other public bodies.

The SI has UK-wide extent and devolved content. It is made under powers in the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958, which are exercisable by the Secretary of State, Welsh Ministers and DAERA acting jointly, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers.

This SI is not covered by the protocol on scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament of consent by Scottish Ministers to UK secondary legislation in devolved areas arising from EU Exit, therefore a notification is not required.

I will respond to Lord Douglas-Miller, Minister for Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare giving the Scottish Ministers' consent to The British Wool Marketing Scheme (Amendment) Order 2024.

I hope the committee finds this update useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Fairlie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JIM FAIRLIE