



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs
and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

By email only

16 May 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**THE RURAL SUPPORT (CONTROLS) (CORONAVIRUS) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2022 (SSI 2022/107)**

The Committee considered the above instrument at its meeting on 11 May 2022 and agreed to seek further information on the following points—

- why the Scottish Government has chosen to make permanent changes through Regulation 2 and Regulation 3(7)(b);
- in relation to the statement in the policy note that “the risks for audit, non-compliance and loss of funds are adequately managed and reduced by applying our new approach of targeted inspections using relevant data and improved education and engagement with applicants”. what this new approach will mean in practice, including what data the targeting is based on; and
- in relation to the statement in the policy note that “the 2022 Regulations will have no impact on stakeholders or members of the public”, clarification about the potential impact on the public if there are to be fewer on-the-ground inspections on farms and crofts that have not complied with rules on protecting soil and water quality and environmental protection and which damages the local environment, biodiversity and the climate.

Yours sincerely

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee