



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon MSP,  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs  
and Islands

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

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25 March 2022

### ***By email only***

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Following consideration of the Red Rocks and Longay Urgent Marine Conservation (No 2) Order 2021 (Urgent Continuation) Order 2022 and, the Organics (Derogations) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 on 16 March 2022, the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee agreed to write to you seeking some further information. A link to the official report of the meeting is provided below-

[RAINE Committee, Official Report, 16 March 2022](#)

[Red Rocks and Longay Urgent Marine Conservation \(No 2\) Order 2021 \(Urgent Continuation\) Order 2022](#)

While the Committee notes the precautionary approach taken by the Scottish Government, we would appreciate further information about the decision to prohibit creeling in the Red Rocks and Longay MPA when the Scottish Government has previously categorised this activity as low impact?

[Organics \(Derogations\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#)

The Committee would be grateful for clarification about why the Scottish Government has agreed to the policy approach to source non-organic pullets or gellan gum rather than adopt an alternative approach, which would perhaps be a different route to the rest of the UK. It would be helpful if you could set out what alternative approaches were considered and discounted.

The Committee would appreciate a response by Friday 22 April 2022.

Yours sincerely

**Beatrice Wishart MSP**

Deputy Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee