



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 ANIMAL WELFARE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS 2022

Thank you for your letter, dated 20 April 2022, enclosing a consent notification for the above UK SI. The Committee considered the notification at its meeting on 11 May 2022 and agreed that the provisions set out in the notification should be included in UK, rather than Scottish, subordinate legislation.

Members also agreed to seek further information from you on the following points—

- whether the removal of the requirement to report annually to the European Commission, and to analyse and address deficiencies in relation to the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (retained EU law) on the welfare of animals during transport, is being, or has been, replaced with domestic reporting requirements?
 - If requirements have not been replaced, how does the Scottish Government intend to monitor and ensure transparency in this area;
- in the absence of a legal requirement to pursue cost recovery, to confirm whether the Scottish Government continues to have a policy of cost recovery from transporters in the event of non-compliance where there is a net financial benefit to pursuing it; and
- how the Scottish Government's decision to consent to the provisions being included in the United Kingdom legislation can be reconciled with its stated intention to maintain regulatory alignment with European Union law and the high standards that Scotland enjoyed as part of the EU and the UK's application to join free trade agreements such as the comprehensive and progressive agreement for trans-Pacific partnership, or CPTPP. According to a House of

Lords committee report, the CPTPP raises concerns about food that is imported to lower standards “undercutting UK farmers and undermining the UK’s food standards regime”.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee