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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural
Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

6 October 2022

Dear Finlay,

DEFRA APH/009 – THE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HEALTH, FEED AND FOOD, PLANTS AND PLANT HEALTH (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022

Further to my letter of 23 September 2022 with regards to the above instrument I indicated that the UK Government planned to lay the instrument on 18 October 2022. This is still their intention.

I had also flagged in that letter that we were seeking a response from the Committee by 7 October 2022 even though such a timescale was not allowing the Scottish Parliament the full 28 days to scrutinise the instrument prior to the laying of the instrument in the UK Parliament. The intention had been to provide notification on Friday 9 September 2022 but this did not prove possible as a result of the national mourning period. I can now advise however that we have now reached an agreement with UK Government officials that the instrument will not be debated in the UK Parliament until after a period of 28 days has elapsed from the date of the notification, or until such earlier date on which the Scottish Ministers have given their consent to the instrument. On this basis the effect of this agreement is that the revised date by which the Committee has been asked to respond to the notification is now **7 November 2022**.

I am copying this letter to the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

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