

Scottish Government submission of 6 October 2022

PE1963/A: Phase in meat production ban by 2040

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 September 2022, seeking views on Petition PE1963.

Meat and dairy are good sources of protein, vitamins and minerals, and if we choose to consume them, it should be in line with public health guidance. The Scottish Government continues to actively promote the consumption of fresh, local and seasonal produce.

We are working with our food production sector to ensure our high quality Scottish food is produced in a truly sustainable manner. Our vision for agriculture - published in March this year - is for Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative farming.

On emissions from food production, earlier this year we announced more detail on how we will work with farmers and crofters to support them to reduce emissions via our National Test programme, this will see farmers encouraged to undertake on-farm carbon audits. The National Test Programme is in line with our broader vision for agriculture, and we will support and work with farmers to cut emissions while continuing to deliver high farming standards.

Our intention is that Scotland's future agriculture support regime from 2025 onwards will be one that delivers high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration. High quality, nutritious food locally and sustainably produced is key to our wellbeing – in economic, environmental, social and health terms. We will support and work with farmers and crofters to meet more of our own food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature.

Funds for farmers and crofters, such as the Agri-Environment Climate scheme and the Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grants Scheme, are already supporting farmers, crofters and landowners to adapt to climate change, reduce their emissions and become more sustainable.

We are also providing advice and support through the Farm Advisory Services, Farming for a Better Climate and the Agriculture, Biodiversity and Climate Change Network, all of which provide support for farmers

and crofters, to tackle climate change, lower emissions and improve outcomes for nature.

We continue working closely with our partners in Public Health Scotland (PHS), Food Standards Scotland (FSS), and other agencies to evaluate the evidence base surrounding diet, health and climate impacts and use that to inform future policy.