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28 March 2024

Dear Finlay

## **Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill – ban on the sale and possession of rodent glue traps**

I am writing to provide an update to the Committee regarding the UK Internal Market Act 2020 (“the IMA”) and the Scottish Government’s proposed ban on the possession and sale of glue traps included in the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill (“the Bill”).

Prior to Stage 3, a final decision from the UK Government on an exclusion to the IMA had not been obtained. In the absence of that decision, at Stage 3 of the Bill, the Scottish Parliament unanimously agreed to include provisions to prohibit the sale and possession of glue traps into the Bill.

I am disappointed to share that the Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare has written to me on 26 March to advise that “the UK Government does not believe that the case has been made that an exclusion under the UKIM Act is necessary to deliver the policy aims of restricting the use of these traps in Scotland.” I believe that this response raises a number of serious issues, including the absence of substantive evidence to justify the UK Government’s position, the decision to block an IMA exclusion for a sales ban despite there being no discernible market impact, and that the UK Government position takes no account of the views of the Scottish Parliament, as clearly expressed in last week’s Stage 3 debate.

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I have attached separately a copy of the letter in full. The Scottish Government will respond in due course, and I will also provide that response to the Committee. I have also sent a copy of this letter to the Constitution, Europe External Affairs and Culture Committee for their information.

Yours sincerely,



**JIM FAIRLIE**

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