



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Jim Fairlie MSP
Scottish Government

29 October 2025

Dear Minister,

The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025

I am writing to confirm that the Committee has considered the Scottish Government's consent notification for the above UK statutory instrument and agreed it is content for these provisions relating to devolved competence to be included in a UK SI.

In addition, we would like to please seek clarification on a number of issues regarding the detail of the notification:

- In relation to removing pest-free areas, the notification states “additional stakeholder engagement has been undertaken by Scottish Government with forestry sector stakeholders in Scotland” but does not detail the outcome of this engagement and, for example, whether stakeholders were in favour. It would be helpful if you could provide this information.
- The section on stakeholder engagement refers to engagement on changes in relation to several specific pests, but the summary of changes made by the SI do not detail the same specific pests. It would be helpful if you could clarify what pests were included in the engagement and what, if any, pests were consulted on but for whom no changes were made.
- The summary of stakeholder engagement refers to concerns from one stakeholder about the ‘deregulation’ of *Helicoverpa armigera* (the other three stakeholders were supportive of the change). It would be helpful if you could detail if there are other pests which are being ‘deregulated’ and, if so, stakeholders’ comments in relation to this/these.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener

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