

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Ministear an Àiteachais agus Ceangal
Jim Fairlie MSP
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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

06 January 2026

Dear Convener,

Scottish Ministers will fulfil our duty to lay a Rural Support Plan in Parliament 'as soon as is practicable' and this Plan will collate the breadth of the agricultural reform work into a single strategic and coherent package to meet the requirements of the ARC Act. There has been and continues to be significant and detailed co-development and engagement on agricultural reform and on the Rural Support Plan itself.

At RAI committee, on 17 December, I answered directly that the Rural Support Plan would not be laid in Parliament or published in December 2025.

Throughout our extensive engagement on the Rural Support Plan, our rural partners have shared our position that it is right to get the detail as certain as can be. Laying the first Rural Support Plan after further considerations, including the Scottish Budget process, will enable us to do so while also taking account of the continued passage of related legislation through Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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