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Rob Gibson MSP
Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

8 March 2016

Dear Mr Gibson

RACCE Meeting 24 February 2016
Questions on The Croft House Grant (Scotland) Regulations 2016

Firstly, may I offer my thanks to the Committee for its consideration of the Croft House Grant (Scotland) Regulations 2016 (SSI 2016/63) at its meeting of 24 February 2016.

In giving consideration to SSI 2016/63 the Committee raised three queries. These queries, together with the Scottish Government responses are provided in corresponding order below as follows:

1. The Committee requested confirmation from the Scottish Government that the croft house grant arrangements would continue to be administered from the Isle of Tiree.

The Scottish Government confirms that there are no plans to move the administration of the croft house grant arrangements from Tiree.

2. The Committee sought an assurance from the Scottish Government that the guidance for the croft house grant arrangements be published as soon as possible, and in advance of the 1 April introduction date.

The Scottish Government plans to publish the guidance by 9 March 2016.

3. Further to the Stage 1 report on the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill and the possible role for the Government in encouraging the development and erection of eco-friendly, energy efficient housing, the Committee requested comment from a croft house grant arrangement perspective.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of works to improve the energy efficiency of houses. It is expected that energy efficiency measures shall be included

in new houses and major improvements funded under the croft house grant arrangements and that construction will be undertaken in accordance with *Building Standard 6.0 - Energy*. This point will be reflected in the guidance. In addition to this, prospective beneficiaries will be signposted to the Energy Savings Trust website which provides detailed guidance on energy efficiency measures and grants that are available for additional energy saving measures.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours Sincerely

Gordon Jackson
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