

Scottish Affairs Committee

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From the Chair, Pete Wishart MP

Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
UK Government

14 May 2019

Dear Michael

Appearance before the Scottish Affairs Committee

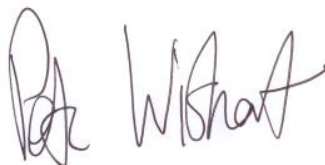
I am writing to express my disappointment at your decision to cancel your appearance to give evidence to my Committee's inquiry into the *Future of Scottish Agriculture post-Brexit* one day before that evidence session was due to take place.

The Committee has been holding a detailed inquiry into what Brexit means for the Scottish agricultural sector exploring important issues including: the future funding settlement; UK wide agricultural common frameworks; the sector's labour needs and the effectiveness of the pilot seasonal agricultural workers scheme; and government support for agricultural innovation. These are important issues that we had hoped to explore with you at today's evidence session, which would have been the Committee's final session before reporting on these issues.

Your decision to cancel today's session will delay both the Committee's report on these issues and postpone other important inquiries as we rearrange other meetings to find a time for you to give evidence. The fact you cancelled a session that had been in your diary for six weeks with only one days' notice, and provided no substantive reasons for the cancellation, was particularly discourteous.

I trust that you will make every effort to find a time in the near future to give evidence to this Committee without delay.

I will be placing a copy of this correspondence on the Committee's website.



Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee