



The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs

By e-mail only

**Rural Economy and Connectivity  
Committee**

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31 August 2017

Dear Mr Gove,

**UK's departure from the European Union - invite to provide oral evidence**

I am writing to invite you to give evidence to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee regarding the ongoing negotiations for the UK's departure from the European Union.

As background, earlier this year and prior to the recent UK election, the Committee had made this request to George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who had been keen to appear before the Committee at a future date.

As you will be aware, the outcome of the European Union (EU) referendum has caused great uncertainty for many stakeholder organisations, not least in the agricultural, fishing and forestry sectors given the potential impact around the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy. Given the relative importance of these industries to Scotland, our Committee held initial evidence sessions in March and April 2017 to provide a preliminary status report on stakeholder views<sup>1</sup>. This was the first in what we anticipate will be an on-going series of updates as the negotiations to exit the EU progress (in addition to issues around transport, digital and food and drink at a later stage). However, the Committee is keen to hear the UK Government perspective before we take our considerations any further.

I appreciate that you have a number of demands on your time and we would be happy for you to identify a suitable date for this meeting to take place which fits with your other diary commitments. The Committee will meet weekly on Wednesday mornings and will resume on 6 September after the Parliament's summer recess.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/104293.aspx>

Therefore I should be grateful if you would seek to identify a Wednesday morning within the Parliament's sitting period where you would be available to discuss the UK's departure from the EU in relation to areas within your Ministerial portfolio and the Committee's remit.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Edward Mountain  
Convener