

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 13:07  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

BBC confirmed for 1345 at their Glasgow studio. Mr Ewing should ask for [redacted]. They will also use the content for News Drive.

ITV have confirmed 1415. Mr Ewing should ask for [redacted] when he arrives.

Comment issued today below.

Responding to Mr Gove's speech at the Oxford Farming Conference 2018, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

*"The guarantee of the continuation of CAP basic payments for five years after Brexit is welcome - and something that I have sought since the referendum- and importantly something that we were promised by Brexit campaigners.*

*"While this guarantee provides a degree of certainty and clarity, it does not cover a whole variety of vital support schemes such as for our hill farmers, sheep and beef support, new entrants, forestry and environmental support programmes, which are crucial to ensure the continued economic wellbeing of all of Scotland's rural communities*

*"I have continually highlighted to Mr Gove the fact that without support for our hill farmers - under the LFASS scheme continuing in Scotland - many of them would give up farming and the impacts on rural Scotland would be devastating.*

*"So while the guarantees issued today are welcome having been sought by me for nearly a year and a half - it leaves far too many questions unanswered for any comfort to be taken."*

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**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 12:50  
**To:** [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

[redacted]  
Mr Ewing is content to do these at the studios as early as possible. Grateful if you can confirm details asap.

Thanks

[redacted] [redacted]  
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted] St Andrews House  
☎[redacted] ☎[redacted]

***All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.***

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 11:33  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

ITV/STV are now looking to interview him as well.

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**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 11:21  
**To:** [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

I'm checking with him on availability.

[redacted] [redacted]  
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted] St Andrews House  
☎ [redacted]  
☎ [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 11:21  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted] **Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

[redacted],

As discussed, [redacted] is looking to speak to Mr Ewing today on this issue. Grateful if you could confirm whether he is willing to undertake.

Additionally, [redacted] at STV is apparently speaking with Mr Ewing today. He should be aware that he could be asked questions on this.

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 10:56  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 10:49  
**To:** [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

Content.

[redacted]  
[redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted]  
St Andrews House  
☎[redacted] ☎[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 10:41  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

Thanks [redacted]

Some minor tweaks from me. Are you content that this issues?

*"The guarantee of continuation of CAP basic payments **for five years after Brexit** is welcome - and something that I have sought ~~now~~ since the **referendum** ~~BREXIT vote~~ – and **importantly** something that we ~~of course~~ **were** promised by BREXIT campaigners ~~in the referendum~~.*

*"**While this guarantee provides a degree of certainty and clarity**, it ~~this guarantee~~ does not cover a whole variety of vital support schemes such as for our hill farmers, sheep and beef support, **new***

entrants, forestry and environmental support programmes, which are crucial to ensure the continued economic wellbeing of all of Scotland's rural communities

*"I have continually highlighted to Mr Gove ~~I pointed to the fact that without support for our hill farmers - under the LFASS scheme continuing in Scotland - having been scrapped in England 7 years ago~~—many of them would give up farming and the impacts on rural Scotland would be devastating.*

*"So while the guarantees issued today are welcome having been sought by me for nearly a year and a half - but they it leaves unclear far too many questions unanswered for any comfort to be taken."*

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**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 10:28  
**To:** [redacted] Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP

[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
[redacted] St Andrews House  
☎ [redacted]  
☎ [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2018 10:04  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** For urgent clearance - Gove subsidy announcement - ASAP  
**Importance:** High

[redacted],

As you are no doubt aware, Mr Gove has announced that the UK Government will guarantee farm subsidies at current levels for five years after Brexit. SpAds are content with the below response. Grateful for clearance asap so that I can issue the below proactively.

*Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:*

*“We welcome the UK Government’s guarantee that farmers will receive the same level of subsidy they currently receive under the CAP basic payment scheme for five years after Brexit. This is a welcome step that provides the sector with a degree of certainty and clarity – though a move that should have been made much earlier.*

*“It is vital that under these proposals Scotland continues to get at least its current share of funding and that devolved powers currently operated at a EU level such as this, must be returned to Edinburgh to ensure that policy and funding decisions continue to take into account the specific needs and interests of Scotland’s rural economy.*

*“While the priorities outlined today show a welcome focus on the environment, they fail to recognise the key role of farmers in producing high quality food. Sustainability in its widest sense must underpin future farming policy and funding.*

*“I continue to press the UK Government to provide the same guarantee for LFASS and other programmes such as new entrants currently covered by pillar 1. This support is crucial to ensure the continued economic wellbeing of Scotland’s rural communities.”*

Thanks in anticipation,

[redacted]

[redacted] Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

**e:** [redacted] **t:** [redacted] **m:** [redacted]