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Mr Don Staniford
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Dear Mr Staniford

Breach of Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 by tankers hauling dead farmed salmon

Thank you for your email of 12 December to Scottish Ministers copied to Mark Ruskell MSP. Your concerns relate to the recent BBC's One Show and the issues portrayed therein. I have been asked to respond.

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (ABPR) are enforced by local authorities and monitored for compliance by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). The Scottish Government provides advice on support on the ABPR to local authority and APHA officials as and when it is needed.

Following an inquiry about breaches of the ABPR in relation to salmon mortalities not being transported properly when on route for disposal, the Scottish Government contacted the local authority where the transport company is located. The inquiry focused on the condition of the vehicles being used to transport the salmon mortalities not being compliant with the ABPR. No complaints had been made to the local authority but they confirmed they would look into the standards of the vehicles used by the transport company. Officials in AHPA were also made aware of this inquiry as they are responsible for inspecting approved and registered premises under the ABPR. Inspections are carried out on a risk based basis and any complaints made about a company or person approved or registered under the ABPR would increase the likelihood of an inspection from APHA. This inspection process would also include vehicles that are used for transporting animal by-products. If you have any specific concerns regarding APB transporters please address these to the relevant local authority.

In May 2016, Zero Waste Scotland published the Finfish Mortalities in Scotland report that highlighted alternative disposal routes following a change in policy that prohibited the disposal of fish mortalities in landfill sites. This report identified disposal routes that are both logistically and commercially viable for the finfish farming industry. The finfish farming industry is still in the process of adjusting to this change in policy and it is expected that more sustainable disposal routes will become available in the future. The report and further information is available online; <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/healthpractice/ZeroWasteMort>. We are also

funding a further project which builds upon this work and will help to identify contingency disposal routes for fish mortalities and also provide the basis to assess potential future waste processing capacity requirements.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity remains committed to supporting the Scottish aquaculture industry and ensuring that all growth remains sustainable. This includes through his direct involvement with the Aquaculture Industry Leadership Group and the recently established Strategic Farmed Fish Health Framework Working Group (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/Strategic-Framework>) .

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Johnston