

PE1542/F

Petitioner Email of 18 June 2015

To the Convener and Members of the Public Petitions Committee:-

Regarding the reply you received from the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

1. The Scottish Government have accepted that the Issue of the Milk Quota Ring Fence invoked Human Rights Legislation.
2. The Scottish Government has been responsible for Legislation regarding the Milk Quota Ring Fence since 1998.
3. As we have stated many times before there never was a proper Consultation of all dairy farmers and milk quota holders, either by Government, or anyone on their behalf. At no time were the rights of the individual mentioned, let alone taken into account.
4. Is the RACCE Committee seriously suggesting that a "vote" could determine a matter of an Individual's Rights? We in no way decry the abilities of local farmers, but they cannot be expected to be experts in Human Rights Legislation. We also quote from the Scottish National Farmers Union, previously, to the PPC "NFU Scotland is not in a position to make comment or judgement on the issue of Human Rights" (PE1263/C)
5. As for the matter being one of "personal and commercial interest" , surely that a) also applied when the RACCE Committee did its recent investigation into the Dairy Sector in Scotland? and b) also applied when the Scottish Government decided to maintain the Milk Quota Ring Fence over the last 17 years?
6. Had the "Matter" been properly investigated in the past, and Consultations done correctly, the serious situation faced by a considerable number of dairy farmers in the Southern Isles could have been averted.

Having looked at the Report of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee of 03/06/15, I would suggest that some decisions appear to be based on a very superficial knowledge of the facts and of Human Rights Legislation, hence the reason that an Inquiry seems to be the only way of solving this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Mundell