

Date of meeting : 22.06.18  
Time : 11am  
Venue : NFU Scotland Stand, RHS, Inghliston  
Committee : Next Generation  
Present : Mark Donald, Sarah Allison, Catherine Sloan, Gordon Caldwell, Jen Craig, Iain Livesey, Colin Ferguson, John Manson, Bruce McConachie, Peter Moss, Jenny Brunton (Policy Manager)  
Present by invitation: Martin Kennedy, Andrew McCornick, Ian Dickson  
Apologies : Andrew Orr, Matthew Steel, Iain Wilson

## **Next Generation 'Steps to Change' Discussion**

1. NFU Scotland (NFUS) Vice President Martin Kennedy gave an overview of engagement with the Scottish Government and DEFRA in the continued advocacy for a future support system that works for Scottish agriculture following NFUS publishing its most recent Steps to Change document.
2. Martin Kennedy outlined the Steps to Change document and gave a comprehensive overview of the unions lobbying priorities. The document advocates action-based support with the ambition to stop overcompensation and create opportunities. The policy aims to produce a support model which will reward farmers, growers and crofters for food production and the delivery of public goods, including environmental, productivity and welfare measures.
3. Questions were then put to the Presidential Team;
  - A question was posed as to whether historical payments would be considered and how can new entrants expand a business? How do they move to the next stage as they cannot build up capital and are no longer a new entrant? MK stated that NFUS wants a live system which is deliverable and allows for payments based on occupation rather than ownership.

- There was discussion around the frontloading of payments – the presidential team believe that this has merit and is an inadvertent cap which will support businesses who are limited in size with large overheads.
  - The impact on crofting was queried with a solution being coupled schemes which are added to a defined activity/stocking rate.
  - The practical delivery of payments and the structure of the budget was queried with MK and AMc supporting a fixed national reserve with a panel. The Presidential team were of the strong belief that we cannot wait until we know details of the budget and instead must be on the front foot in securing a deliverable system whilst looking for any unintended consequences.
4. The meeting was limited in time to one hour and was used as the starting point for future engagement and interaction with the Next Generation group. The decision was made that a further meeting should be held where the Next Generation group will feedback on both the Steps to Change Document and also current issues, for example the consultation launched by Fergus Ewing. It is of great importance to the Presidential team that the group engages with policy issues and they emphasised the value of the group to both the union and the agricultural industry.