

The Rt Hon Mr Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
UK Parliament

17 November 2025

Dear Alistair,

Banning peat compost

The Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee is concerned about the use of peat in compost. You will be aware of absolute need to protect our peatlands and the immense environmental harms caused by peat compost.

Recently we asked the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs about any plans to introduce a ban on the sale of compost containing peat and he told us "We still believe that the best way to do this ... is on an England and Wales basis." He went on to explain that "UK Government is committed to doing this. What they've got to find, what they've got to persuade ... No. 10 and ... the Cabinet, is that they need an urgent legislative slot."

I note that there is broad political support for a ban on peat compost, with both the previous UK Government and the Scottish Government both supporting the idea of a ban. I also note that your colleague Sarah Dyke MP has introduced a Private Members Bill on the issue.

It seems clear to me that despite the environmental importance and wide support, this issue seems to be firmly on the back burner. So, I am writing to ask whether your Committee might consider undertaking some work on this matter to help increase political pressure and advance the ban? I would also be keen to explore if there are any opportunities for collaboration, within the limited time frame we have until the Senedd election, to ensure it receives appropriate attention.



I have copied this letter to Edward Mountain MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

CC: Edward Mountain MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament