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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company  
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.  
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

From: Scot Gov Sent: 31 March 2020

Dear Mr Robins,

Thank you for your email regarding the Scottish Government's Sea Fisheries Intervention Fund.

I can confirm that the fund's eligibility criteria are as follows:

Eligibility criteria

- Immediate hardship payments are initially focussed on vessels registered as 12m and under in length. These vessels have suffered in most cases a complete loss of markets as a result of COVID 19, with little or no alternatives available.
- The grants will be paid to those who are believed to rely on commercial sea fishing from a Scottish Registered Vessel for a living.
- Full time is defined as any vessel that has recorded landings of £20,000 or more during the reference year of 2019. There is precedence for using this rationale and it is the same benchmark that a previous support scheme in 2014 used. We are using recorded landings data which we have at a very granular level of detail for our analysis.

I can confirm that the fund is focussed on vessels in the size category 12m and under as we have identified those vessels as being those most immediately and severely impacted by COVID 19 due to the greatly reduced and likely complete loss of market for their product. The majority of these vessels are within the static creel sector who sell to the high value hospitality and restaurant trades primarily abroad but also here in the UK. These vessels are the smallest in the Scottish fleet and tend to have the least cash reserve resilience, all being self-employed.

I hope this information is useful.

Kind regards

Jane Macpherson

Head of Catching Policy and Future Fisheries Management Team  
marine scotland: Sea Fisheries Policy Division

To Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism &  
Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance,  
The Scottish Government,  
Edinburgh

NOTE: Copied to other relevant Ministers and their Shadows.

Dear Ministers,

I write re your decision to use £5m of public money to help the Scottish fishing and seafood industry during the current Covid 19 pandemic.

I urge the Scottish Government to use that money to support smaller companies and self-employed members of the fishing and seafood community and not to be given to wealthy multinational fish farm businesses and very wealthy trawler owners.

I ask you to take stringent steps to ensure not one penny of public money is given to any individuals, companies or companies owned by persons convicted during the Black Fishing scandal which was a well organised multi-million £ crime which made a mockery of fish conservation quotas for several years.

Larger companies and multinationals will be able to claim 80% of staff wages and will also be able to better withstand any disruption to their business.

Smaller domestic companies and self-employed skippers often, though not always, use more sustainable fishing techniques and operate in ways which cause less environmental damage. Many of these people are in a far more precarious financial situation and will have much more need for financial support than do larger, far wealthier companies at this time.

Please spend our £5 million wisely and where it is most needed.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,  
Animal Concern