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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

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