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NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP

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Mr Ken Gray
The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh
EH11 3XD

17 October 2017

Dear Mr Gray

SAWB Recognition of the Ringlink Pre-apprenticeship (internship)

I write as Vice Chair of North East Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group (NESAAG), a cross-sectoral partnership drawn from the public and private sectors comprising four local authorities, Scottish Enterprise and HIE Moray, agriculture, forestry, food safety and environment agencies, private and industry bodies including academic and research institutions and industry and farming sector representatives.

The Group and its members have provided practical support and encouragement to the innovative Ringlink Internship project since its creation in 2013 and have closely monitored its excellent track record in providing a work-based learning route into the land-based sector for young people, most of whom are from a non-agricultural background.

NESAAG members unanimously welcomed the news at the last meeting of the group on 20 September that the internship had been formally recognised by SRUC as a Pre-apprenticeship qualification (SCQF Level 4).

In order to facilitate the model's continuing development and expansion across Scotland, members agreed that a letter be sent to SAWB requesting the formal recognition of the Pre-apprenticeship by SAWB for its 6 month duration. This would have the effect of according trainees equivalent status to those undertaking a Level 2 Modern Apprenticeship in Agriculture/Horticulture within the context of the SAWB Wages Schedule. An early decision in the affirmative would be very helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Cook
Vice Chair,
NE Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group