

Press release following the meeting on 10/2/09

The urgent need for a supermarket ombudsman was one of the issues discussed by a delegation from Dairy Farmers of Scotland (DFoS) when they met Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, yesterday.

Nine delegates representing farmers selling to every major milk buyer in Scotland discussed a range of important issues including the need for an ombudsman and the divide of prices across the supply chain, the use of 'the Fair Milk' campaign ("100% Fair = 100% Future") and brand to raise consumer awareness of this issue.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Lochhead said:

"The dairy sector, like most areas in farming, is going through a challenging period of change and I am determined to listen and do all that I can to facilitate the development of a sustainable and profitable future for the industry.

"I have listened with interest to the points made by DFoS delegation and have agreed to consider their points in detail with government officials.

"I intend to convene a meeting involving all parts of the dairy supply chain to discuss issues of common concern. This is part of the on-going dialogue that we are having with Scotland's Food and Drink sector to encourage greater understanding and transparency in the supply chain."

All parties agreed that the meeting had been positive and constructive.