

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and
Connectivity

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Graeme Dey MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and

Land Reform Committee

By email to ecclr.commtee@parliament.scot

Your ref:

Our ref:

8 March 2017

Dear Graeme,

Draft Climate Change Plan (RPP3) – agriculture and soil testing

I'm writing in response to your letter of 21 February.

The timetable set out in the draft Climate Change Plan envisages the proportion of improved land tested increasing by a sixth each year, until all improved land is covered in 2023.

In 2020 we will check on the progress we are making towards this. If we are not on track, we will look at possible incentives to realign ourselves with the targets.

As I said in my previous letter I firmly believe that we cannot significantly reduce emissions from agriculture without the goodwill of the custodians of the land. I believe that engagement and encouragement will achieve the objectives we have set out in the draft Climate Change Plan.

I look forward to your Committee's report on the draft Climate Change Plan.

Yours sincerely,

FERGUS EWING

CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY