



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
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24 June 2020

Dear Convener,

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT ON GREEN RECOVERY

Following on from the letters sent in [December 2019](#), I am writing to update you on recent developments in relation to green recovery and the work of the ECCLR Committee, as well as to highlight the potential for wider parliamentary engagement in the Autumn.

Background

A green, just and resilient recovery has been highlighted by Governments across the world, including the Scottish Government, as essential in effectively responding to the current challenges of the COVID-19 health crisis (including the social and economic challenges). Before the COVID-19 health crisis, a number of parliamentary committees had agreed a joint approach to the Climate Change Plan (CCP) update earlier in the year (which was expected in April 2020). They were:

- Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee
- Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
- Local Government and Communities Committee
- Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

However, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform wrote to the Committee on [1 April 2020](#) to advise that the Scottish Government would be re-considering its plans for the updated CCP as part of a green recovery from COVID-19 and that it had requested advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) on this. The CCC has since set out its view on the [principles](#) that should underpin a net-zero recovery and highlighted some priorities for action.

Recently, the ECCLR Committee discussed the parameters of a green recovery with the Cabinet Secretary on [15 June 2020](#). On [16 June 2020](#), the Cabinet Secretary announced before Parliament that she hoped to lay a revised CCP 'in December to align with the Scottish budget, if possible. The recast plan will set out a credible pathway, as part of a green recovery, to meeting Scotland's world-leading climate targets over the period to 2032.'

Current external and expert work on green recovery

A number of experts, academics and advisers are currently working on green recovery including: The Just Transition Commission, the Infrastructure Commission, the McKinsey Group, the COP26 Universities [Network](#), the CCC (due to provide advice to the UK Government on green recovery on 25 June 2020) and the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (reported on [22 June 2020](#)). The Aldersgate Group also recently published a briefing '[Seizing the Moment](#)' that outlines how low carbon and nature restoration projects can deliver key benefits in terms of employment, greater regional equality, long-term competitiveness and resilience.

The opportunities for a green recovery are also currently being discussed across a wide range of sectors.

Framework for a green recovery and ECCLR Committee inquiry

The Committee agreed its approach to green recovery work on 23 June 2020 and will focus its initial scrutiny on establishing the principles, key actions for change, immediate priorities, leadership and governance needed to underpin an effective green recovery, as well as the potential implementation barriers. The Committee agreed its overarching questions to frame this approach:

- Do the principles set out in the UK Sustainable Development framework and those proposed by UK Committee on Climate Change provide a comprehensive framework for guiding an effective green recovery in Scotland?
- What are the key barriers to delivering a green recovery (within your sector and / or community)?
- What key policies, actions and immediate priorities are needed to deliver a green recovery (within your sector and / or community)?
- How should the 2021/22 Budget support a green and sustainable recovery and avoid locking in carbon; and what funding is needed in the ECCLR portfolio to deliver a green and sustainable recovery?

The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee has agreed to launch an open Call for Views on green recovery.

The Committee agreed to launch an open call for views on the above questions, focusing on identifying the principles, opportunities, key actions for change, immediate priorities, leadership and governance needed to underpin an effective green recovery, as well as the potential barriers to implementation. The Committee also agreed to write directly to the Scottish Government (Cabinet Secretaries across a range of portfolios) with a series of specific

questions to explore current thinking across government, as well as to engage with experts, stakeholders and the public to identify the necessary action to underpin an effective green recovery.

The Committee will share the responses with the relevant committees to help inform their own inquiries and engagement processes in the Autumn period. This should hopefully foster opportunities to engage collaboratively in green recovery scrutiny across the Parliament and to explore how a sustainable recovery can deliver economic and social priorities and build resilience across society.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have and will keep you updated on progress.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Martin MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

CC'd:

COVID-19 Committee
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
Education and Skills Committee
Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Health and Sport Committee
Justice Committee
Local Government and Communities Committee
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee
Public Petitions Committee
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
Social Security Committee