



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment,
Climate Change and
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c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

GREEN RECOVERY

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).

The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee is undertaking an inquiry to establish the principles that should underpin a green recovery, to identify key actions for change, immediate priorities, potential barriers to implementation and the governance arrangements needed to deliver this.

The Committee launched an open call for views on 26 June 2020 (which can be found [here](#)) and wrote to several experts across the UK to seek further detail on the aspects identified above. As part of this inquiry, and following on from the evidence session on [15 June 2020](#), the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to explore the parameters of a green recovery in more detail. We recognise that many of the questions identified cross portfolio areas, and so are likely to require input from other Cabinet Secretaries (the questions are set out in the annexe). As part of our inquiry, we anticipate hearing from you and other Cabinet Secretaries in the Autumn period, and the response to these questions will inform that discussion when we meet formally.

Crucially, the evidence we gather over the summer period will support the work of this committee, and other parliamentary committees, on scrutiny of the Scottish Government's green recovery plans (including the updated climate change plan) and the Scottish Government Budget.

The Committee would welcome a response by 31 July.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Martin'.

Gillian Martin MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

**Environment, Land Reform and Climate Change Committee
Questions to the Scottish Government – Green Recovery**

What the Scottish Government means by a green recovery

1. What does the Scottish Government understand by a green, resilient or sustainable recovery? How will Scotland's economic recovery plans take account of the principles underpinning a green recovery, including those suggested by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC)?
2. How will the Scottish Government ensure that the definition and implementation of a green recovery is just, equitable, and inclusive, and has the needs and views of marginalised voices at its core?

Recovery planning

3. What work is underway and what processes are being put in place across Government for delivering a green recovery? Who is leading this work?
4. The Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) published its recommendations on 23 June 2020. Beyond the Group's call for views, how are the views of others transmitting to Government?
5. In the context of a green recovery, is it prudent to delay the review of the National Planning Framework for a further year?

Governance

6. How is the Scottish Government coordinating the conversation and understanding of green recovery across Government and Government agencies? Building on the recommendations of the CCC and AGER, is the Scottish Government considering establishing a Cabinet Sub-Committee on such an important cross-cutting issue?
7. What is the role of the ECCLR Cabinet Secretary in delivering Scotland's green recovery and economic recovery plans?
8. What is the role of local authorities and government agencies in green recovery? Is the Scottish Government rethinking the role of community councils, community bodies and other local organisations given the resilience delivered in many areas at local, rather than regional, or national, level?
9. How does the Scottish Government plan to engage with the Parliament on green recovery?

Opportunities and barriers

10. What work is the Scottish Government doing to lock in and maintain any positive behavioural or structural changes that resulted from lockdown

(such as active travel, altered working practices) that offer emissions and wellbeing benefits?

11. What are the biggest barriers that the Scottish Government has identified in pursuing a green recovery? What work is the Scottish Government doing to identify and remove any barriers to locking in positive behavioural change and address potential negative changes (such as a shift from public to private transport)?
12. What are the biggest economic opportunities for Scotland associated with pursuing a green recovery and what needs to happen to realise this potential?
13. How will Scotland's recovery plans use investment in low-carbon infrastructure and natural capital to support the economic recovery and jobs?
14. Considering the shifts in using local places for recreation and active travel, and social distancing requirements, what role will planning and placemaking play in a green recovery? What will this mean for urban and rural areas and how can access to greenspace be improved, particularly for those living in densely populated areas and lower income households?

2021/22 Budget

15. How is the Scottish Government engaging across portfolios to ensure that sustainable development and the CCC's green recovery principles inform its 2021/22 Budget?
16. What opportunities has the Scottish Government identified for aligning preventative spend opportunities with the green recovery agenda?
17. How will the reconstruction of local economies be prioritised in the 2021/22 Budget and future financial plans, rather than looking to rebuild 'as was'?
18. How will the approach to budgeting change to invest more in low carbon infrastructure and other low carbon initiatives?
19. Will the Scottish Government be committing to any support to high carbon industries being linked to supporting them make a green transition?
20. What impact will the green recovery have on future spend in those sectors responsible for significant emissions, for example agriculture, transport, and the residential sector?

Green recovery and the climate and biodiversity emergencies

21. How will the promised review of all policy, as per the climate emergency declaration last year, link to the plan for Scotland's green recovery?

22. How will the green recovery link to the updated Climate Change Plan (CCP)? How will the updated CCP be formatted, now that it is being 'recast' in light of green recovery work, what is the new timeline, and how is the SG engaging with stakeholders on this? How does the SG plan to engage with the Scottish Parliament ahead of the CCP update being laid?
23. How will the Scottish Government ensure that any policies or actions as part of a recovery from Covid-19 also follow a pathway to biodiversity recovery?
24. Does the Scottish Government see an increased role for nature-based solutions, land reform, landscape-scale collaboration and investment in natural assets, within a sustainable recovery – if so, what action does the Scottish Government intend to take?

Green recovery and a sustainable economy

25. What investment in and support for business recovery is needed to ensure a green recovery and what conditions will be attached to support? Will investment from the Scottish National Investment Bank be prioritised to support a green recovery?
26. What plans are in place to support low carbon sectors and sectors which support biodiversity recovery?
27. How can the Scottish Government create resilient and sustainable local economies and communities in the context of a globalised, interconnected and just-in-time market?
28. How will lessons learned on resilience (or lack of resilience) in the food system be used as part of a green recovery from Covid-19?
29. What is the role of the circular economy in a green recovery?
30. With employment a central issue to social and economic recovery, what steps is the Scottish Government taking to align the education, skills and green recovery agenda?
31. How is the Scottish Government's own Strategic Research Programme, delivered by SEFARI, feeding into the recovery plan?