



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

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c/o Clerk to the Committee
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

REQUEST FOR AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Committee is working on its work programme and agreed some priorities on 23 June. As part of that discussion the Committee agreed to write to you seeking an update on a number of outstanding issues that we may wish to factor in when we make final decisions on our work programme in September. These are highlighted below. We would be very grateful for updates on their status as this will ensure we are covering areas which have progressed, in the short time we have before this session of Parliament ends.

Climate Change

Budget Working Group: confirmation that the Scottish Government is content with the Terms of reference and scope of the Group, as set out by the Committee in October 2019.

The Committee is increasingly concerned about the delay in the Scottish Government response and can see no justifiable reason for this. The Committee has now written to the Scottish Government on a number of occasions, and the Cabinet Secretary indicated that a response would be imminent in January; eight months from the initial engagement it appears that we have made no progress. The Committee considers that given the stated climate emergency, the establishment of this group and delivery of the anticipated outputs is critical and should be a matter of priority, to ensure the necessary information is in place for the 2021/22 Budget. The Committee will be writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance in similar terms.

Budget tool: an update on the outcome of the budget and infrastructure spend research project. This examined approaches that could be used to report on how well infrastructure spending decisions made as part of the Scottish Government Budget are aligned with Scotland's greenhouse gas reduction ambitions.

COP 26: an update on the Scottish Government's work in preparation for COP 26. How the Scottish Government is engaging with the UNFCCC interim and preparatory meetings en route to COP26. What the framework for discussion between Scottish and UK Governments is and detail on any outstanding areas for discussion and agreement. The plan for engaging stakeholders and citizens given the extension in time available for planning.

Policy Review: an update on the promised review of all policy following the declaration of the climate emergency.

EU Exit

EU Exit regulations and frameworks: detail of SI notifications and SSIs, in particular the number, policy areas and possible categorisation, and an update on possible frameworks within remit, in particular the number, scope and timing of any expected in advance of 31 December.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity Targets and Strategy: an update on progress on delivering on the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity and the Route Map to 2020 and the timing of any updates to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy elements which end in 2020. An update on plans regarding national implementation from the outcomes of the next Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity now due to be held in 2021.

Biodiversity funding: an update on funding for biodiversity, including any Scottish Government involvement in the [£1bn Challenge for Scottish Conservation Finance project](#). Update on work on how funding for agriculture and other land-use management be structured post EU Exit to help improve Scotland's natural environment.

INNS: an update on invasive species and management of this across Scotland. Challenge.

Marine and Freshwater Environment

Marine environment: an update on the following:

- Marine Protected Areas - designation, implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Proposals for Priority Marine Features
- Progress with regional marine planning
- Current and planned work related to the Future of Fisheries Management in Scotland national discussion paper.
- Any work being undertaken by Marine Scotland on assessing post-Brexit marine compliance and enforcement capacity.
- Development and application of the marine environment indicators as part of the National Performance Framework

Environmental Impacts of salmon farming: a progress update on the Committee's recommendations as set out in its [report](#) to the Rural Economy and Connectivity of 2018.

Land Management

The Grouse Moor Management (Werritty) review: an indication of the timing and nature of the Scottish Government response to the review, engagement with stakeholders and plans to engage with the Committee.

The deer management review: an indication of the timing and nature of the Scottish Government response to the review including plans to implement the recommendations, engagement with stakeholders and plans to engage with the Committee, and an update of progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations as set out in its [report](#) of 2017.

Other issues:

Air quality strategy for Scotland (CAFS) revision: an indication of the timing, scope and process of review of the air quality strategy, engagement with stakeholders and an update of progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations as set out in its [report](#) of 2018.

Circular economy strategy revision: an indication of the timing, scope and process of review of the circular economy strategy, engagement with stakeholders and plans for further legislation.

The Committee would welcome a response by 7 August.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Martin MSP
Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee