



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener
Economy, Energy and Fair Work
Committee
By email only

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Dear Convener,

ECCLR Green Recovery work – SNIB, Enterprise Agencies, and related themes

Following on from the letters sent in [June 2020](#), I am writing with an update on the current work of the ECCLR Committee on green recovery, particularly in relation to the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB), enterprise agencies and the associated themes that have emerged. It is hoped some of this can help inform your own work in these areas.

During our evidence gathering over the past two weeks, the Committee has heard a wide range of views on the SNIB and the critical role that it can play in supporting a green recovery, particularly in terms of providing long term ‘patient’ capital. However, a number of experts have also raised concerns about whether the SNIB is adequately capitalised at 2bn over 10 years and queried the extent to which investment will be compatible with what is required to deliver net-zero. Below is a summary of some of the other potentially relevant themes/issues that have emerged as we have explored aspects of a green recovery:

- **Innovation:** It has been shown, through the response to Covid-19, that innovation and social cohesion can go hand in hand – demonstrated through local businesses innovating and people more inclined to support local businesses where they can.
- **Finance:** Whilst Government can develop the framework for the green recovery from Covid-19, it is imperative that finance, from both the public and private sector, is aligned properly to build resilience in the economy, and to make it more adaptable to shocks.
- **Green Investment:** The Committee has heard evidence that investment now in a green economy saves spend further down the line.

- **Governance:** It is imperative that decision makers across our economy and society are well sighted on, and aware of, the risks that going back to the ‘normal’ can bring, and the opportunities in doing things differently. Increased awareness of environmental risk must be embedded, and catered for, at director level across the private and public sectors.
- **Enterprise Agencies:** To that end, we heard that the enterprise agencies have a key role in signposting these risks to businesses and to helping them navigate through them. The enterprise agencies must also ensure that their activities align with both a green recovery and the associated route towards net-zero.
- **Policy Coherence:** It has clearly come out in evidence that policy coherence is a significant issue – for example, witnesses pointed to the issues in declaring a climate emergency but offering ongoing support to build in high-carbon activities across the same time period.
- **Joined Up Approach:** The Committee heard calls for a climate commissioner, or a climate emergency committee (in Parliament) to provide the expertise and focused attention across the public and private sectors. It also heard evidence regarding the need for better cross-sectoral working to ensure a more holistic, joined up approach to progressing a green recovery and tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity.

The Committee will continue to share work where appropriate as our inquiry develops. Following these evidence sessions, the Committee will hear from Cabinet Secretaries in October and report ahead of the 2021/22 draft budget and the updated climate change plan (expected by the end of 2020). The Committee will circulate its report to other parliamentary committees and share all relevant work to help inform and support parliament-wide scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s green recovery plans, draft budget and updated climate change plan. In this regard, it may be of interest to know that the Committee received over 100 responses to our call for views on green recovery, many of which touch on aspects of the SNIB, enterprise agencies, and the themes noted above (see [Submissions](#)).

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

Yours sincerely,



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