



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Fergus Ewing  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy  
and Connectivity

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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***By email only***

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21 February 2017

Dear Fergus,

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

Thank you for your response to my letter of 20 January 2017 on soil testing and the draft Climate Change Plan.

The Committee considered your reply today and was able to refer to it during our evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. The Committee will further reflect on your response and will likely comment on the Scottish Government's position on soil testing in its report on the draft Plan.

However, the Committee also agreed that I should write to you today to request further details in relation to the timetable for introducing regulations if your “engagement and encouragement” approach does not achieve the objectives in the draft Plan. Specifically, will the decision to regulate be taken before 2023 if it is clear that the phased approach to all improved land being tested will not be met by this time, or will you wait until 2023 before making such a decision? If the decision is made post 2023, when will the regulations come into force?

I would be grateful for your prompt attention to these questions and so would request a response by **Tuesday 27 February 2017**.

I appreciate that the 60 day process to consider the draft plan is as much a challenge to the Scottish Government as it is to committees but you will appreciate that we are keen to have the relevant information in front of us when considering our response. Had we received your reply to our original letter on soil testing earlier we could have afforded you more time for this second response.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Dey MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

cc. Edward Mountain MSP, Convener, Rural Economy and Connectivity  
Committee and Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land  
Reform, Roseanna Cunningham