

## Post-legislative Scrutiny: Biodiversity and Biodiversity Reporting Duties

### Remit

The Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee is seeking written views as part of its post-legislative scrutiny of the biodiversity and reporting duties placed on public bodies by the [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) (the 2004 Act) and the [Wildlife and Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) (the 2011 Act).

The 2004 Act requires all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions. The 2011 Act amends the 2004 Act to require public bodies to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions they have taken to meet the biodiversity duty.

One of the key findings from a Scottish Government commissioned study into the [Evaluation of the Compliance and Quality of Biodiversity Duty Reports 2015](#)<sup>1</sup> was that –

*“Out of 139 public bodies, 61 (44%) had definitely produced a biodiversity duty report and 35 (25%) had not produced a report. We did not hear from the remaining 43 bodies (31%) and could not find their report online”.*

**This is not a full review of the legislation.** The Committee is focusing on the extent to which the biodiversity and reporting duties placed on public bodies have been successful. Organisations and individuals are invited to make a written submission to the Committee setting out their views on the following questions:

- How well do you believe public bodies understand the biodiversity and reporting duties placed upon them?
- Do you believe that public bodies are adequately resourced to comply with the biodiversity and reporting duties?
- Do you think the requirement to report on the biodiversity duty leads to effective actions for improving and conserving biodiversity by public bodies?
- Are there any changes that could improve the actions taken by public bodies in respect of the biodiversity and reporting duties?

### How to submit written evidence

Before making a submission, please read our [Policy on Treatment of Written Evidence by Subject or Mandatory Committees](#).

Evidence should be reasonably brief and in Word format if possible (preferably no more than 4-6 sides of A4 in total).

**The deadline for receipt of written submissions is Friday 23 March 2018**

The Committee prefers to receive written submissions electronically. These should be sent to: [papls.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:papls.committee@parliament.scot)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00508539.pdf>

You may also send a hard copy of written submissions to:

Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Holyrood  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

We welcome written evidence in any language.