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Dear Calum,

Thank you for your letter of support of the 2nd February in relation to my plan to ensure the MPA network is complete by considering these four remaining MPAs.

I am delighted that the Scottish Budget agreed on the 31st January included provision for these proposals to be taken forward. As you are aware up until now it has not been feasible, due to resources needing to be spent in other areas of marine conservation, such as Special Areas of Conservation for harbour porpoise and Special Protection Areas for marine birds, the emergency designation of Loch Carron MPA last year, and of course ensuring proper management is in place for the MPAs we have already. It has been a busy and productive time since the MPAs were designated in 2014.

As you can see it has always been my intention to take forward these proposals and now is the right time to be able to do so. I fully welcome your support on this and look forward to working with you on these proposals too, to ensure the best possible outcome for the consideration of these MPAs.

Yours

Roseanna

Roseanna Cunningham

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