



Scottish
Environment
LINK

Dolphin House
4 Hunter Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1QW

T: 0131 225 4345
E: information@scotlink.org
W: www.scotlink.org

24 April 2020

The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Culture,

Advisory Group on Economic Recovery membership.

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment organisations, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

We acknowledge the unprecedented challenge facing the Scottish Government in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome your announcement of the establishment of an Advisory Group on Economic Recovery to provide independent advice to inform your decisions during the course of this pandemic and its aftermath. Indeed, your assurances made to the Scottish Parliament this week that the Group will seek a wide engagement with third sector and environmental representatives reflects the comments made by your colleague, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, that the Government is seeking a 'green recovery for Scotland.' We very much support this.

However, to realise these ambitions fully we urge that the Group includes a range of members with environmental expertise and familiarity with the Scottish context to aid the preparation of its report to you in June and ensure that the opportunities and benefits of a green recovery to Scotland's society, economy and environment are fully explored.

Scottish Environment LINK is supported by our Honorary Fellows, who offer us a wealth of independent and professional experience on which we draw as needed. Indeed, we would like to take the opportunity to recommend to you that the Group includes the membership of Professor James Curran MBE, LINK Honorary Fellow and environmental scientist. Professor Curran has held various posts within the Scottish Government and agencies, including Chief Executive of SEPA, retiring in 2015. He has been an Honorary Professor of Stirling University and has served on many groups such as the ministerial Zero Waste Taskforce, Green Growth Group, and Expert Panel on Unconventional Oil and Gas. Further detail is [available here](#).

The inclusion of a broad range of environmental expertise in the membership of the Advisory Group itself would ensure aspects of a green recovery can be considered in detail and lead to outcomes that can secure the wellbeing of the people of Scotland, both in the immediate response to COVID-19 and in the years to come.



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'L'.

Deborah Long
Chief Officer
Scottish Environment LINK