**TITLE: *Farm for Scotland’s Future – research project***

**1. Context**

Scottish Environment LINK (‘LINK’) is the forum for Scotland’s voluntary environment community, with over 40 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests and the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

The Farm for Scotland’s Future campaign was launched by more than 20 environmental charities, members of Scottish Environment LINK, and is advised by farmers’ groups.

As the Scottish Government is currently preparing a new system of agricultural funding, the campaign is advocating for an ambitious approach that will deliver for nature, climate and people.

The campaign is commissioning a report to build an evidence base to support our advocacy efforts.

This piece of work would contribute to the following objectives from [LINK’s Strategy 2020-2024](https://www.scotlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LINK-beyond-2020-Strategy.pdf):

* **A sustainable Scotland**, by supporting efforts to ensure that public spending and Scottish Government policy supports land use that is nature and climate friendly;
* **A strong voice,** by providing a rigorous and persuasive evidence base for use by our campaign across media, advocacy, and digital communications;
* **An effective network**, by developing a shared resource for use by our members.

The report will be owned by Scottish Environment LINK and its purpose is to be used for policy advocacy with the Scottish Government and its agencies, and with the Scottish Parliament, in order to influence the upcoming Agriculture Bill and the subsequent system of farm funding.

**2. Task**

The appointed contractor will produce a written report outlining the case for a transformative change in agricultural policy. This report will be evidence-based with a strong narrative, and will promote LINK’s policy proposals as well as case studies of best practice.

The contractor should develop a persuasive evidence base based on the key themes identified by LINK. This evidence will be drawn from government sources, peer-reviewed academic research, eNGO publications, reputable think-tanks, and other appropriate sources. The report should have a strong focus on Scotland specifically, however international evidence may also be useful, particularly from countries with comparable climates and systems of food production.

LINK members will assist the contractor by sharing information and identifying likely sources of evidence, including case studies; however, the contractor will be responsible for filling any gaps.

We anticipate that the key themes covered in the report will be:

* **The need for change**
	+ The negative impact of agriculture on nature, in the context of broader nature loss and Scottish Government commitments
	+ The negative impact of agriculture on climate, in the context of the Scottish Government’s statutory targets
	+ The consequences of nature loss on food production, to date and in future
	+ The consequences of climate change on food production, to date and in future
* **The problems within the current system**
	+ How public spending is currently distributed, and how this supports harmful farming practices
* **How farming can work for nature and climate**
	+ How farming practices can help restore nature and reverse wildlife loss
	+ How farming practices can reduce and sequester emissions
	+ How nature- and climate-friendly farming practices can support food production
* **LINK’s proposals for the new system**
* **Case studies**

**3. Deliverables**

The contractor will deliver a written document in word format. We anticipate that the report will likely be in the region of 7,500-15,000 words, although we are flexible on this point, and the final length will be agreed with LINK staff during the process.

The language should be professional but accessible to non-specialist audiences. Both tone and language should be consistent with the wider output of the Farm for Scotland’s Future campaign. Key arguments and statistics should be highlighted and presented in a way that can be easily adapted for other uses, such as social media content.

All claims should be fully sourced, with references provided in the text and a bibliography provided.

Graphic design is not required.

**4. Approach**

The report will be researched and written by the contractor, with the input of LINK’s Advocacy Manager, Campaigns Coordinator and other staff as required. LINK’s Advocacy Manager will be the primary point of contact, with regular updates and opportunities for input expected. Towards the end of the project, the contractor will be required to present progress to a wider group of representatives from the Farm for Scotland’s Future campaign and/or LINK’s Food & Farming Group.

**5. Timescale**

*Expected 6-8 week delivery from appointment*

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| --- | --- |
| Dates | Action  |
| Week 1 | Introductory meeting with LINK staff and sharing of resources |
| Weeks 2-6 | Regular contact with LINK Advocacy Manager to outline progress and provide opportunity for input |
| Week 6 | Presentation of draft to LINK members |
| Weeks 7-8 | Final amendments and revisions |
| Week 8 | Delivery of final report |

**6. Selection criteria:**

* Understanding of agriculture, including policy, particularly in a Scottish context
* Evidence of strong written communication skills
* Appropriate methodology
* Relevant experience
* Ability to meet deadline
* Value for money

**7. Budget:**

The contract to be let has a total value of £3,500, including VAT.

**8. Quotes**

Quotes should include for the research, preparation and drafting of the report.

Please submit quotes for this contract to Dan Paris, LINK Advocacy Manager, by email at

dan@scotlink.org to be received no later than 5pm, 20th October 2022.

**9. Initial meeting**

The date of first meeting will be within a week of appointment.

This first meeting will:

* Agree a joint approach to the task, with timescales
* Outline existing evidence held by LINK and LINK members
* Agree appropriate sources for inclusion

**Any queries on this brief should be addressed to Dan Paris, Advocacy Manager** **dan@scotlink.org** ***.***