

**Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity**  
Ministear airson Sgilean Uaine, Eaconamaidh Chuirteach is Bith-iomadachd  
**Lorna Slater MSP/BPA**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000  
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Deborah Long  
dan@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202300349783  
Your Reference: Welcome letter to First Minister

2 May 2023

Dear Deborah et al

Thank you for your welcoming letter of 28 March 2023 to the First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf MSP. Your letter has been passed on to me to respond, as the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity.

I am pleased that the new First Minister quickly sought to reaffirm the Bute House agreement and the Scottish Government's commitment to urgent action at all levels to tackle the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, to ensure a nature-positive, net zero world. Biodiversity and climate change impact on the portfolio of every Scottish Minister, and collectively we have a shared responsibility to protect our natural environment.

As you are aware, our draft biodiversity strategy was published in December 2022, setting out our vision for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and reversing declines by 2045. This will be followed by a consultation on the full strategic framework of Strategy and Delivery Plan and the new Natural Environment Bill later this year. The Bill which will establish a framework for nature restoration targets and help deliver the vision set out in the new Strategy. We have also made an ambitious commitment to protect 30% of our land for nature by 2030, which is now a target in the new Global Biodiversity Framework, and to designate at least one new National Park during the lifetime of the current Parliament.

We have worked closely with a wide range of stakeholders in developing our new biodiversity strategy. I highly value the expertise of Scottish Environment LINK and its member organisations in the ongoing development of the strategy, and I look forward to continuing constructive dialogue as we progress with Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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3DG  
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developing our SBS Delivery Plan.

I, and my fellow Ministers, look forward to continuing to work positively with you for the benefit of Scotland's natural environment.

Kind regards



**LORNA SLATER**

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