

## FM & Cab Sec environmental ngo roundtable meeting: 15 August 2023

**Invitation text:** *On 22 June the First Minister committed in Parliament to hold a meeting ahead of COP28 to discuss what more we can do to meet our climate ambitions and tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. As a first step in this process, the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition would like to invite you to attend a meeting on 15 August between 12:15 to 13:15 at St Andrew's House, Edinburgh. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss priorities in our just transition to a net zero and nature positive Scotland as well as an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on the direction of travel for the government for the immediate future and how we can reach our rightly challenging net zero targets.*

### Agenda

- a. **Welcome and introduction from the First Minister for Scotland**
  - b. **Tackling the climate and nature emergencies**
  - c. **Just Transition**
  - d. **Journey to COP28**
  - e. **AOB**
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### **DL notes:**

**Present:** Thomas Ross, Policy Adviser, [Directorate for Energy and Climate Change](#); Kersti Berge, Director of Energy and Climate Change, Dave Signorini, Director of Environment and Forestry, First Minister, Cab Sec for Climate Change and JT, Leanne Woods, SPAD, Harry Huyton, SPAD plus Philip ???

Barry Fisher, KSB; Anne Macall RSPB Scotland, Lang Banks, WWF Scotland, Malachy Clarke, foES (all members of LINK and SCCS); Mike Robinson, SCCS, Deborah Long, LINK. Matthew Crighton, Just Transition Partnership, Ben Wilson, SCIAF, Frances Guy, International Development Alliance (SCCS members).

John Lowe Chair 2050 Climate Group, Alex ? Chair of Scottish Youth Parliament plus Scottish Malawi Partnership and one other organisation.

**FM introduction:** the impacts we're seeing today are a real wake up call. Work ahead includes looking forward to COP28 and the new Programme for Government. The SG are committed to action to meet Scotland's obligations and he offered reassurance that they would not be drifting backwards with respect to the climate emergency. He is looking to maintain global leadership on climate change: emissions data is clear on what action is needed. Pleased to see the Just Transition proceeding at pace: it is part of the moral and economic imperative to act. The JT delivers on obligations to the planet – climate and nature, as well as to workers and building energy security and the renewable potential in Scotland.



He reiterated he is committed to action and wanted to send a clear signal on his intentions.

His questions for the meeting:

1. How to take people with us especially around difficult decisions on reducing demand and how to make choices less difficult / more palatable
2. Avoiding the culture war and avoiding a race to the bottom. He is looking to show leadership on the climate emergency.

CCP and its development will be a key tool.

**Cab Sec intro:** Scale of the crisis is clear and the response needed is clear. They have the ambition to act fairly and want to work out how best to do that. The update of the CCP is looking at a whole economic review to reduce emissions and to act at scale but within a tight timescale and within tight finances. Looking for our involvement through this roundtable and through continuing bi-laterals. Looking for the detail of costs and benefits at a sector level with detailed actions at scale.

JTPs are also sector by sector and part of CCP. How do we avoid a backlash as we do that. She recognised the important role of leadership in working with everyone.

People around the table raised their own points. From a LINK perspective, we raised:

Welcoming the ambitions already set out and keen to see those acted upon. The Nature Champion initiative should be helpful in having those conversations within Parliament. For our part, we are using campaigns (FFSF and SSS) via stories of solutions and a future worth having.

There is a clear need for honest conversations: that is a clear message from impacted sectors too eg young farmers

These conversations are also about justice: one way to spread the costs and maximise benefits to nature and farmers, for eg, is via a cap to Tier 1 payments in the agricultural subsidy to move money away from rewarding those with land to rewarding those doing more for nature and climate.

Working with impacted sectors also key to identify not just impacts today but future ones too, including those on future generations and young people.

Anne talked about nature and climate as two sides of the same coin and the importance of nature based solutions in tackling both. The upcoming super consultation will be important as will discussion around public subsidy and land use. The threats include funding – and how biodiversity enhancement in NPF4 is used – what does that look like. And the joint letter – working across parties and building momentum.

Others raised points around the role of young people. Fast fashion was given as an example. Working with the global south through the loss and damage scheme and continuing to show leadership on

that. As well as amplifying voices of the global south, also amplifying voices of those groups who are unheard.

FM raised the HPMA consultation: admitted they were now on the back foot. For that reason Cabinet has discussed the super consultation and looking at how it might land to learn the lessons. Cab Sec agreed that getting out and talking to communities early in the process was key – she especially wanted to hear from unheard voices and those who are affected. She summarised the roundtable asks as ‘be brave’.

Mike Robinson asked that we check what we learnt from the Climate citizen assembly – why did those people involved change their minds so powerfully.

FM confirmed he expects to be judged on their actions. He is aiming to meet expectations. He indicated he wants to hold a summit before COP28 (SCCS ask in their letter) in beginning November / end October. Wants to find out what COP28 needs to look like so he is equipped when he goes to COP28.

FM also asked about financing the climate emergency: how to leverage private finance and he is interested in having further conversations around that. He also asked about whether we would be interested in a convened meeting with eNGO interests and oil and gas.

DL 16 August 2023

