

Jim Fairlie MSP
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Scottish Government

9 February 2024

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Scottish Environment LINK, we would like to extend our congratulations to you on your new role as Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity.

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

Scotland faces twin environmental crises of nature loss and climate change. The [State of Nature Report 2023](#) found that Scotland is a highly nature-depleted country, following historic losses of species and habitats over centuries. The natural environment is important to 92% of Scots, according to a poll commissioned by LINK. Forthcoming legislation on the natural environment including the Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill offers an unprecedented chance to deliver for nature and climate in Scotland, as well as supporting our rural communities and food producers.

[The Farm for Scotland's Future campaign](#) was launched in 2022 by members of Scottish Environment LINK, and is backed by 41 environmental, farming and food organisations. LINK members have a strong interest in supporting the Scottish Government to deliver its vision becoming a world leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. It is our view that a stable climate and healthy natural environment are the foundations of our food systems and prerequisites for food security. You will be aware from your work as LINK's Nature Champion for the curlew of the importance of agriculture in delivering for our wildlife.

LINK and our members are keen to work closely with the Scottish Government and we would be grateful for the opportunity to have an introductory meeting in your new role to discuss our shared ambitions for Scottish agriculture.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Long

Chief Officer
Scottish Environment LINK



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment

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