

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

Juliet Caldwell
juliet@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202400398854
Your Reference: Letter from Scottish Environment LINK

6 March 2024

Dear Juliet

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2024 on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK regarding our meeting which took place on 16 January to discuss upland management, the Managing Deer for Nature and Climate Consultation, peatland protection and the Natural Environment Bill.

I am grateful for the comments made by SE LINK regarding the topics that were discussed during the meeting and have responded in turn to the points which have been raised in your letter as follows.

Deer management

Thank you for your comments about deer management and our recent consultation, we appreciate your thoughts and would encourage you to respond via our consultation if you have not done so already. The consultation, [Managing deer for climate and nature: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/consultations/2024/03/managing-deer-for-climate-and-nature-consultation) will run until 29 March 2024.

I understand that you have since met with my officials to discuss the proposals around Deer Management Nature Restoration Orders further, and that they have set out the work which is being undertaken to consider a suitable framework of incentives. I would like to reassure you that we are considering all options to ensure effective deer management. Please be assured that we will consider your input alongside the other responses to the consultation before publishing a full response. I look forward to engaging with you further in relation to our deer management policies.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



Lead ammunition

With regard to banning lead ammunition, without prejudice to the expected final HSE opinion of the restriction proposal, Scottish Government continues to support a ban on the use of lead in live quarry shooting (including bullets and lead shot), where alternatives are available, based on the risks posed to people and the environment.

Private Investment in Natural Capital

There is a public sector partnership in place to take forward the Scottish Government's commitment to develop a values-led high integrity market for responsible investment in natural capital. It includes three Directorates in Scottish Government, NatureScot, Scottish Land Commission, South of Scotland Enterprise, and other environmental and economic agencies. The main priorities for this partnership in 2024 are:

- Market Framework – as set out in the 2023 Programme for Government, we will publish a market framework in 2024. We are about to enter the engagement phase for this work and we will be seeking advice from SE LINK and other market participants on what actions the framework should identify to support the market vision in Scotland – values-led, high integrity and responsible. Jo Pike from SWT sits on the Advisory Group for this work;
- FIRNS Investment Readiness grant scheme – we will establish a Community of Practice to share learning on market development across the 27 FIRNS projects awarded funds in the 1st round in September 2023 and those new projects that get FIRNS awards in the 2nd round this Spring. SE LINK members are well represented in the FIRNS projects and we hope that they can extend the learning throughout their networks;
- Blended Finance for Peatlands – we will develop ideas on how public and private investment can work together to increase the scale of peatland restoration in Scotland;
- Biodiversity Investment Plan – we will work with Biodiversity colleagues to produce an investment plan as part of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy;
- BSI Nature Market Standards Programme – we will support this programme to develop UK nature market standards. Its focus in 2024 will be on the production of standards for Overarching Market Principles, Voluntary Carbon Markets and Biodiversity Markets.

I understand that official level engagement with SE LINK is already happening to discuss private investment in Natural Capital as a follow up to the 16 January meeting.

30x30 Framework

The Scottish Government is aware of the risks around how 30x30 is perceived and is working to ensure that lessons learnt from Highly Protected Marine Areas are accommodated in taking the 30x30 programme forward. It has taken some time to analyse the comments provided on the 30x30 Framework, which was part of the 2023 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan consultation, to ensure that the draft Framework which was drafted following the 30x30 Stakeholder Co-design workshops in late 2022 has resonance with the wider stakeholder group who responded to the consultation. In the coming weeks, Scottish Government and NatureScot will be arranging a series of meetings and workshops with stakeholders to update on progress with 30x30 and to define the next stages in the process, including reaching consensus on the criteria which will be applied to recognising 'Other Effective [Area-based] Conservation Measures' (OECMs) in Scotland.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



I hope this proves helpful.

Kind regards



LORNA SLATER

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver

