



Scottish  
Environment  
LINK

Dolphin House  
4 Hunter Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1QW

T: 0131 225 4345  
E: [information@scotlink.org](mailto:information@scotlink.org)  
W: [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

**Gillian Martin MSP  
Minister for Climate Action  
Scottish Government**

**22 May 2024**

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Scottish Environment LINK, we would like to extend our congratulations to you on your additional responsibilities as Minister for Climate Action.

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.

The climate and nature crises are inextricably linked. Scotland has suffered a high level of historic nature loss and this is accelerating further. The recovery of nature is essential to safeguard the future of our societies and economies, as well as of wildlife itself. LINK members strongly support the introduction of a Natural Environment Bill by the end of 2024, including setting statutory nature restoration targets. This has the potential to accelerate the pace and scale of our efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity on land and at sea by measuring progress towards that goal.

We are looking forward to welcoming the finalised Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity this year which will set out a roadmap for Scotland to be nature positive by 2030 and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity by 2045. The Framework must be ambitious, and must focus not just on nature protection, but, crucially, on restoration.

Another area of particular importance to LINK is circular economy policy. We see a circular economy as crucial in delivering Scotland's commitments on climate change and nature as well as offering other benefits such as supply chain resilience and a broadly more sustainable economy. We look forward to continued progress in this field - the completion of the passage of the Circular Economy Bill, the use of the powers that it will grant and the development of secondary legislation, the publication of the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map; and, crucially, the delivery of specific measures that will reduce our consumption of raw materials, especially those that cause harm to our environment.

We have members working on specific aspects of a more circular economy with a variety of expertise. We look forward to working with you on this important policy area. I understand my colleague, Phoebe

Cochrane, has already been in touch with your office to request a meeting about the Circular Economy Bill.

We are grateful for your support over the years as Nature Champion for grey seal. We hope that you continue to be a champion for Scotland's natural environment in your new position as Minister for Climate Action.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Long, Chief Officer, Scottish Environment LINK



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