



Deborah Long  
Chief Officer  
Scottish Environment LINK  
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By Email

19 August 2024

Dear Ms Long,

Thank you for your recent letter of congratulations to the Secretary of State for Scotland. The Secretary of State has asked me to respond on his behalf as the Minister who leads on environmental matters within the Scotland Office.

I appreciate how imperative it is that we protect the natural environment across the UK, including in Scotland. I am grateful to you for bringing this topic to my attention, and can assure you that the UK Government will aim to collaborate with partner organisations, such as the Scottish Environment LINK, on these matters. We are also committed to positively resetting relations with Devolved Governments, with the aim of working closely with the Scottish Government for the benefit of ecosystems in Scotland and the UK as a whole.

With regards to your point on the UK Internal Market Act, I appreciate that there are strong views on the operation of this legislation. The UK Government recognises the importance of the UK internal market to both our economy and intra-UK trade; and we want to reset the relationship between Scotland's two governments and we will consider how regulation of the UK internal market fits within that.

Due to pressures on my schedule, I will be unable to meet with you at this time, but I look forward to working with you and the Scottish Environment LINK in future on behalf of protecting our natural environment in Scotland and across the UK.

*yours sincerely,  
Kirsty McNeill*

**KIRSTY MCNEILL MP**  
**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**