



Scottish  
Environment  
LINK

5 Atholl Place  
Perth

PH1 5NE

T: 01738 630804

E: [enquiries@scotlink.org](mailto:enquiries@scotlink.org)

W: [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

9 June 2025

Dear First Minister

Subject: UK Government proposal for National Lottery Heritage Fund

We hope that what follows is based on a misunderstanding. In case it is not, we wish to bring to your attention an extremely concerning the possibility that the National Lottery Heritage Fund may be subsumed within an England-based body, as outlined in the letter below from colleagues in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. We are not party to the detail but have been informed that this is both a credible and imminent threat. Our colleagues in Wales are also writing to Wales Finance Minister, Mark Drakeford and Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy FM of Wales.

This proposal, if developed, has extremely serious and worrying consequences for Scotland, Scotland's nature and Scotland's ability to drive the scale of action required to meet the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is recognised as one of the very best funders for nature restoration. It has an efficient distribution system that brings vital impact for natural, cultural and built heritage. Messing with that at a time when the need for urgent action has never been greater - in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework targets and national targets and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy too - would be a fundamental setback to Scotland's ambitions.

Indeed, this move could seriously affect Scotland's fair allocation of the funding, which has amounted to £1 billion, awarded in Scotland, since 1995. The Heritage Fund is the only funder able to fund significant landscape-scale projects across the UK, including, for example, the £8 million [Landscape Connections project in Scotland's Solway Firth](#) announced on Friday 6 June. That ability is irreplaceable.

We would be very keen to discuss this issue with you and lay out our considerable concerns. However, this is urgent - we have been led to believe Ministers in England will be discussing this early in the week beginning 9 June. We urge you to intervene in this matter and to raise concerns about bringing a UK wide funding stream under England agency control.



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment

Registered office: 5 Atholl Place, Perth, PH1 5NE. A Scottish Charity No. SC000296

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by Guarantee and without a share capital under Company no. SC250899



Yours sincerely

Deborah Long, CEO, Scottish Environment LINK  
Jo Pike, CEO, Scottish Wildlife Trust  
Kat Jones, Director, APRS  
Shivali Fifield, Chief Officer, Environmental Rights Centre Scotland  
Barry Fisher, CEO, Keep Scotland Beautiful  
Brendan Paddy, Director, Ramblers Scotland  
Rochana Sheward, Director, Friends of the Earth Scotland  
Pete Ritchie, Executive Director, Nourish Scotland  
Philip Long, Chief Executive, National Trust for Scotland  
Steve Micklewright, CEO, Trees for Life  
John Thomson, Chair, Scottish Campaign for National Parks  
Anne McCall, Director, RSPB Scotland  
Ellie Stirling, Company Secretary, Scottish Badgers  
Gavin MacGregor, Director, Archaeology Scotland  
Harry Huyton, CEO, Scottish Seabird Centre  
Charles Dundas, CEO, Borders Forest Trust  
Lang Banks, Director, WWF Scotland  
Peter Ewing, Convenor of Scottish Wild Land Group  
Alison Lomax, Director, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust  
Alasdair Seaman, Director, Woodland Trust Scotland  
Alan Munro, Founder and Director, Young Sea Changers Scotland.



**Scottish Environment LINK** the voice for Scotland's environment

Registered office: 5 Atholl Place, Perth, PH1 5NE. A Scottish Charity No. SC000296

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by Guarantee and without a share capital under Company no. SC250899

