



Scottish  
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**Shona Robison MSP**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government**  
**Scottish Government**

8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### **SCOTTISH BUDGET 2026/27**

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with 50 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

Tackling the climate emergency is one of the Scottish Government's top priorities. The Scottish Government has repeatedly been clear that tackling climate change must be done in conjunction with action to protect Scotland's natural environment. This recognition will, with the passage of the Natural Environment Bill, include the establishment of statutory targets to stop biodiversity loss and restore nature.

In order to meet both our climate and nature targets, it is essential that the upcoming budget includes clear commitments to invest in our environment. Specifically, LINK members have three priorities for the 2026/27 budget:

- 1. Protect environmental budget lines in real terms**, including investment in peatland, forestry, and the continuation of the Nature Restoration Fund. This must extend to protecting the budget lines for NatureScot, SEPA, the Marine Directorate and other government actors responsible for delivery of nature and climate policy.
- 2. Deliver for nature and climate resilience in agriculture budget.** Agricultural subsidies are a key driver of land use and the system needs to do more to support nature- and climate-friendly farming, as well as to support farmers and crofters to become more resilient in the face of climate change.

The Scottish Government must:

- Increase funding for the Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme from its current level of £30 million to increase the number of agreements and area of land enrolled (£25 million)



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- Increase support for organic farming (as part of AECS) (£6 million) and fund implementation of the Organic Action Plan (£2 million)
  - Provide additional funding for advice and training for farmers and crofters to support the transition to nature and climate friendly farming and continuation of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF) (£5 million)
  - Create a new fund for third parties to facilitate collaborative action between farmers and crofters to deliver nature and climate outcomes at scale (£5 million)
  - Increase funding for low density agroforestry and farm woodland (£10 million)
3. **Fund Programme for Government commitment for national deer pilot.** Improved deer management is an essential step in tackling the nature crisis, with the scope to deliver landscape-scale recovery for our native woodlands and peatlands. The Programme for Government included a commitment to develop local pilot deer management projects, including an implementation plan and funding models. The budget should provide funding to take forward these pilots in conjunction with the deer management sector. (£1 million)

We are grateful for your consideration of these proposals and your continued engagement as we work together to deliver for Scotland's natural environment.

Your sincerely,  
Dr Deborah Long  
Chief Executive, Scottish Environment LINK



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