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Ivan McKee MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform
Scottish Government

29 May 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK to congratulate you on your reelection and reappointment to government as Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform. We look forward to continuing working with you at this important time for Scotland's climate and nature.

Scottish Environment LINK brings together over 50 environmental organisations, representing a broad coalition of expertise and collectively the support of over half a million people across Scotland. We are keen to support you in delivering Scotland's ambitions to tackle the climate and nature crises together.

A key priority for our members is the effective and consistent implementation of National Planning Framework 4. Its requirement that development should conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity is not yet being applied consistently in practice. This is especially evident in energy consenting decisions within your portfolio, where biodiversity outcomes are often treated as discretionary rather than expected.

This creates a gap between policy intent and delivery on the ground. At a time of significant energy infrastructure development, there is a clear opportunity to ensure projects contribute meaningfully to nature recovery. At present, this opportunity is not being fully realised, which risks undermining both environmental outcomes and public confidence.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how energy consenting and planning can better support both climate action and nature recovery in a more joined up way.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment and we look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Long

Chief Executive
Scottish Environment LINK



Scottish Environment LINK the voice for Scotland's environment

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