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Our Reference: 202600519493
Your Reference: Welcome Letter from ScotLINK

19 June 2026

Dear Deborah Long,

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2026 inviting me to discuss securing biodiversity outcomes through energy consents.

I understand that you are scheduled to meet with some of my colleagues to discuss similar matters. Noting this, and given my statutory role in making decisions on individual consent applications, it would not be appropriate for me to meet to discuss this issue further. To do so could create the perception of pre-judging matters that may come before me for determination, which would risk breaching the Ministerial Code.

As you will be aware, NPF4 is a material consideration in the determination of Energy Consents Unit (ECU) applications, and it must be read and applied as a whole. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to NPF4 policies on a case-by-case basis. More generally, the weight to be applied to all material considerations, and the need for any conditions to be attached to a consent, is a matter for the Minister taking the decision in each case.

I would, however, like to assure you that the Scottish Government remains committed to supporting both our climate and nature recovery ambitions. All relevant factors, including biodiversity considerations, will continue to be carefully weighed in decision-making in line with NPF4 and other material considerations.

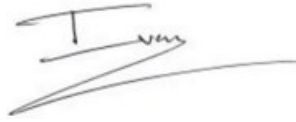
Thank you again for raising your concerns.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



Yours sincerely,



IVAN MCKEE

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