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Dear Deborah,

Land, Agriculture and Nature Delivery (LAND) Group

I am writing to extend a formal invitation to your organisation to join my new advisory Land, Agriculture and Nature Delivery (LAND) Group.

As I am sure you will agree, our land in Scotland is iconic and unique. However, it is finite and fixed whilst the demands we make of it are not. These demands continue to grow – for the provision of food and drink, the production of timber, achieving our net zero ambitions, renewable energy, nature restoration, building resilience to flooding and water scarcity, natural capital investment, infrastructure, housing, tourism and recreation. Our needs are extensive and complex.

In our recently published 4th Land Use Strategy, we set out our direction and our desire to support and develop a land-based system that understands these competing priorities, seeks synergies and points of common interest, whilst enabling and supporting land managers in their choices as we move through our just transition.

I understand that actions taken in one area of land have consequences for the system as a whole. Therefore, I am establishing this multi-interest advisory group as a platform for holistic, strategic cross-sector discussions on land and land use. In addition to providing me with an opportunity to converse directly with experienced stakeholders such as yourself, it is my hope that this forum will be to everyone's mutual benefit as we collectively seek to better understand:

- the system wide interactions, tensions and benefits between sectoral policies, actions and associated delivery plans; and
- the opportunities to align actions within land, agriculture and nature with the broader economic growth and wellbeing ambitions of Scotland.

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I sincerely hope your organisation will join this shared endeavour. My officials will be in touch with you separately to finalise arrangements for the first meeting of the LAND Group, scheduled for Thursday 1 October at 10:00am. In the meantime, I attach a draft Terms of Reference for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN MARTIN

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