

PE1812/III: Protect Scotland's remaining ancient, native and semi-native woodlands and woodland floors

Minister for Climate Action written submission, 31 May 2024

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2024 about the Committee's consideration of the petition detailed above and the request for further information. I have set out below the Scottish Government's responses to the questions in your letter.

1. When does the Scottish Government expect to publish analysis of the consultation on Tackling the Nature Emergency: Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity?

We received over 600 responses to our recent consultation on Scotland's Biodiversity Framework. We are carefully considering all these responses and will publish our analysis and formal response once that consideration is complete.

2. Provide an update on plans to introduce the Natural Environment Bill during the current parliamentary session.

The Scottish Government remains firmly committed to taking action to address biodiversity loss and protect and restore the Natural Environment. As the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy set out when she gave evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 28 May, updates on the Scottish Government's future legislative programme, including any plans for a Natural Environment Bill, will be set out in due course. In the meantime, we are continuing to take a wide range of actions to deliver nature restoration, for example through our £65 million Nature Restoration Fund, which has already committed nearly £40 million since 2021.

I hope and trust that the information outlined above will provide the Committee with the information it needs.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Martin