



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

**Finlay Carson MSP
Convener of the Rural Affairs,
Islands and Natural Environment
Committee**

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot

25 April 2022

Dear Finlay,

Translocate Protected Beavers to Reduce Licensed Killing (PE1815)

At its [meeting on 15 March 2022](#), the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee considered the above petition following recent updates from the petitioner and exchanges of correspondence after the first consideration of the petition on 30 November 2021. [Read the Official report for the meeting on 15 March 2022.](#)

Members agreed to write to the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee as we understand its likely you will take the lead in scrutinising a bill on agriculture to be introduced later in Session 6.

We understand that the main purpose of the bill would be to establish post-Brexit rural support schemes and that management and payment models for the schemes are yet to be defined.

Some of the possible payment models to choose from could see farmers and crofters receive money for facilitating or restoring ecosystems to function properly. The petitioner, Trees for Life, have told us they think this type of approach should be implemented. They stated in a recent letter to the Committee that “a holistic approach to beaver management needs to include provision for farmers to secure meaningful income from providing wildlife habitat along our riverbanks”.

The Committee agreed that I should write to you to ask you to take into account, when looking at the agriculture bill, whether payments for ecosystem services or other positive incentives could reward ecosystem restoration, for example, through beaver management, as part of a new rural support system.

The Committee also agreed to write in similar terms to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity.

We hope you will take these comments into account in your future scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Lockhart', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Dean Lockhart MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee