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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

18 December 2023

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 22 November. Please find answers below to your queries to assist in the Committee's preparation to scrutinise the draft Climate Change Plan (CCP).

1. You had asked whether the Scottish Government sought the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) advice on the UK Government's announcements on net zero policies in September and any implications this would have for the draft Plan.

Scottish Government officials are in regular contact with the CCC, as part of a close working relationship with the CCC in their role as the Scottish Government's independent advisory body on climate change. When considering the impact of the UK Government's announcements on net zero policies, CCC advice, including through their publication on 12 October on the above noted issue, was considered.

2. You had asked about progress towards the 2021 PfG commitment of opening a CCC office in Scotland.

Consideration towards the establishment of a dedicated CCC Office in Scotland is ongoing. These developments are taking place in the context of several factors including ongoing liaison with representatives from other Devolved Governments, UK Government counterparts and tightening fiscal environments.

3. You had asked how the Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP) timing will interact with the CCP.

While there are several policy interdependencies between climate adaptation and mitigation, the timing of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP) is not affected by the timing of the CCP. We will open a draft of the next SNAP for public consultation in early 2024, as scheduled. Publication of the final SNAP is scheduled to be September 2024.

4. You had asked for details of the Climate Change Plan Advisory Group.

I have attached the Terms of Reference (ToR) to this group, which will be updated once a revised date has been agreed for laying the draft CCP. The ToR contains the membership, remit, timing and meeting topics from the group. As the group has not yet concluded its work, it will not be possible to share its conclusions at this time.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI MCALLAN

CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN ADVISORY GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. There is a global climate emergency and in 2019 Parliament passed, with near unanimous support, ambitious new climate change legislation that requires Scotland to reach net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, and to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030. As part of that process the Scottish Government is drafting a new Climate Change Plan (CCP) to show how we will meet the new, highly ambitious annual targets, up until 2040. A draft of the next CCP will be released in November 2023, with a final version due by March 2025.
2. The last Climate Change Plan Update, published in 2020, was designed to reduce emissions by 23.3 megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (MtCO₂e), or by 56%, between 2020 and 2032. In order to meet the new statutory targets, the 2023 updated Plan needs to show how Scotland will reduce emissions by 22.3 megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (MtCO₂e), or 55%, by 2032. Final figures for the reduction in emissions required out to 2040 will not be available until June 2023.
3. In addition to the use of devolved powers, achieving these targets requires the application of a wide range of UK Government levers along with substantial change and adaptation by business and industry, as well as by the public sector and in consumer trends and behaviours.
4. The then Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport convened this short life working group of members of the Scottish Parliament, business leaders, public organisations, environmental NGOs, academics and others to contribute to the development of the next Climate Change Plan. The Climate Change Plan Advisory Group (CCPAG) will form a core part of our wider engagement in the development of the next CCP.
5. The CCPAG will work together to:
 - a) ensure the views of all represented stakeholders actively inform the creation of the plan;
 - b) understand and advise on the scale of the challenge inherent in meeting the new annual emission reduction targets out to 2040, particularly in relation to public finances and the Scottish economy and express views on possible solutions;
 - c) discuss options for managing the challenges and risks and maximising the opportunities and benefits of the Plan's proposed policy approaches including co-benefits across sectors and linkages to climate change adaptation and other policies; and
 - d) advise on priorities on areas required by the Plan not included in previous plans: such as setting out an estimate of the costs and benefits associated with its policies and consideration of just transition principles when preparing the plan.

6. The group will enable the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition to consider a range of perspectives and expertise in policy development for the upcoming Climate Change Plan, as well as:
 - a) allow consideration of views on feasibility of policy approaches, and views on where we could go further;
 - b) create deeper and more explicit links between the emissions pathway/ sector-driven Climate Change Plan and wider themes that will continue to underpin our approach to recovery and Net Zero; and
 - c) strengthen and broaden the range of stakeholders inputting to Scottish Government policy development.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND METHOD OF WORKING

7. The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition will chair meetings. All discussions will be treated as confidential and members are invited to use their own engagement networks in development of views to feed into CCPAG discussions. Papers for meetings will be shared in advance and should not be shared outwith the group. Minutes will be shared amongst members throughout the CCPAG meetings but not published. A final high level report will be published online at the conclusion of the group meetings. Attendance and handling of papers can be discussed with the Secretariat (Policy and Implementation Unit, Scottish Government).

MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED AGENDAS

Meeting no.	Date	Agenda
1	Thursday, 23 rd Feb 2023 13:30 – 14:30	Introductory scene setting Climate Change Plan (CCP) Background – including an integrated approach to just transition
2	Thursday, 23 rd March 2023 13:30 – 14:30	Vision for a future of Scotland
3	Thursday, 18 th May 2023 09:30 – 11:00	Taking a whole system approach to the CCP and just transition planning (i.e. looking beyond the bounds of sector envelopes)
4	Thursday, 29 th June 2023 09:30 – 11:00	Energy use (including: demand management, transport, industry, electricity, buildings, NETS)
5	Thursday, 31 st August 2023 09:30 – 11:00	Land use (including LULUCF, agriculture and marine)
6	Thursday, 5 th October 2023 09:30 – 11:00	Financing net zero
7	Date TBC	TBC

MEMBERSHIP

MSPs

1. Màiri McAllan – Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition (Chair)
2. Gillian Martin- Minister for Energy
3. Lorna Slater – Scottish Greens Co-leader, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
4. Patrick Harvie – Scottish Greens Co-leader, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenant’s Rights
5. Graham Simpson- Scottish Conservatives, Shadow Minister for Transport
6. Sarah Boyack – Scottish Labour, Spokesperson for Net Zero
7. Jill Reilly – Scottish Liberal Democrats, Spokesperson for Transport

Other members

8. Professor Dave Reay – Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI), University of Edinburgh
9. Professor Jaime Toney – Professor in Environmental and Climate Science, University of Glasgow
10. Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh – The Centre for Climate and Social Transformations (CAST), University of Bath
11. Professor Nick Eyre – Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS), University of Oxford
12. Professor Karen Turner – University of Strathclyde, Director of the Centre for Energy Policy
13. Professor Matthew Williams – Chief Scientific Adviser to the Scottish Government for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
14. Artemis Pana – Scottish Rural Action, National Coordinator
15. Deborah Long – Scottish Environment (SE) Link, Chief Officer
16. Dr. Ameena Camps- Just Transition Commission (Zero Waste Scotland)
17. Gina Hanrahan – WWF, Head of Policy & Advocacy
18. Sam Gardner – Climate Emergency Response Group

- 19.** Becky Kenton- Lake – Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS), Coalition Manager
- 20.** Councillor Gail MacGregor – COSLA, Environment and Economy Spokesperson
- 21.** Nick Halfhide – NatureScot, Director, Nature and Climate Change
- 22.** Craig Hatton- North Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive
- 23.** Sarah Thiam – Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI), Chief Executive
- 24.** Tracy Black – Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Scotland Director
- 25.** Suzanne Sosna – Scottish Enterprise, Director, Economic opportunities
- 26.** Dave Moxham – Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), Deputy General Secretary