



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Màiri McAllan MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net
Zero and Just Transition
Scottish Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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22 November 2023

Dear Màiri,

Scottish Government draft Climate Change Plan

Thank you for your [letter of 7 November](#) replying to our request for an update on timetabling for the Plan. While we understand there may be good reasons why you are unable to provide certainty on timing at this stage, it is important to underline that this continuing uncertainty is unhelpful in terms of committees' forward planning. We would welcome an update on timetabling as soon as you are able to provide it.

The Committee would also welcome more information on the following matters, to assist in our preparation for scrutinising the draft Plan—

1. The Scottish Government's independent advisors on climate change, the Climate Change Committee, have expressed concerns about the delay in laying the draft Plan. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee would welcome detail of any discussions which took place with the Climate Change Committee prior to the decision to delay the draft Plan. We are interested in whether the Scottish Government sought their advice on the UK Government's announcements on net zero policies in September and any implications this would have for the draft Plan.
2. We also note from the 2021 Programme for Government that the Scottish Government intends to work with the Climate Change Committee to open an office in Scotland. The NZET Committee would welcome detail of progress towards this objective.
3. The Scottish Government is due to publish its next Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme next year. The Committee seeks details of how the timing of the publication and content of the

programme will now interact with the publication of the draft Climate Change Plan.

4. The Committee would welcome details of the Climate Change Plan Advisory Group including remit, membership, meetings and conclusions of the group, including how these will shape the draft Plan.

I also wish to highlight the Committee's agreement, at its meeting on 19 September, to carry out post-legislative scrutiny of section 91 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (duty on Scottish Ministers to have a public engagement strategy on climate change). As part of this, the Committee made a proposal to the Conveners Group for a deliberative democracy exercise involving a citizens' panel, which was agreed. The panel's work will take place in spring 2024, and these deliberations will feed into Parliamentary Committees' scrutiny of the Plan next year.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response to this letter by 19 December 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee