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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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28 March 2024

Dear Edward

I am writing to you today to let you know about the publication of a consultation seeking views on our commitment to protect 30% of Scotland's land for nature by 2030 (known as 30 by 30). I'm sure you will recall that the wider policy framework for delivering 30 by 30 was part of the recent consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan. This new consultation relates solely to some limited proposals for provisions to be included in the Natural Environment Bill which will relate only to protected areas on land. These address to some extent the point in your letter of 8 February that 'Management of these [protected] areas needs to be effective and enforced' which I hope you will welcome.

I am pleased to attach a copy of the consultation document which will be published on Tuesday 2nd April. Please note the consultation document is embargoed until 10.00am on Tuesday.

As you know, Biodiversity is vital for us all and it is in crisis, globally and in Scotland. We have already committed to the target of halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and substantially reversing it by 2045. This consultation offers the opportunity to explore where we might make some improvements to the existing legislation as it relates to protected areas and get the views of a wider audience.

As ever, please do share any comments or questions you or your Committee may have on the consultation or strategy. Please note I am writing in similar terms to the Convener of the RAI Committee.

Kind regards

**LORNA SLATER**

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