

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

REPORT IN CONNECTION WITH 2021 EMISSIONS TARGET UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE (SCOTLAND) ACT

18 June 2024

Dear Convener,

I write in regard to the report due to be laid in Parliament, in connection with the 2021 emissions target and under section 36 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This follows confirmation, in a report laid under section 33 of the Act in June 2023, that the target was narrowly missed by 1MTCO_{2e}.

I have previously committed to the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland that this report would be laid in Parliament ahead of the Scottish Parliament entering summer recess on 29th June, and urgent work has been taken forward to discharge this.

However, due to the announcement that there will be a UK General Election on 4th July 2024, I have been required to consider whether it is appropriate to discharge this report during the pre-election period bearing in mind that activities of the Scottish Government, particularly with a cross border or reserved element, can have a bearing on the UK general election campaign.

It is with regret that I cannot publish this report during the pre-election period and therefore ahead of the Scottish Parliament entering summer recess on 29th June, as I had hoped. While frustrating for me – and I am sure, for the Committee, it is unavoidable given the guidance that we must follow.

I have provided an update on this matter to the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland. We will endeavour to discharge this report as soon as reasonably practicable on the Scottish Parliament reconvening after summer recess on 2nd September.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Our commitment to ending Scotland's contribution to global emissions as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest, is unwavering. We've made strong progress to date and continue to be ahead of the UK as a whole in delivering long-term emissions reductions.

I hope this update is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI MCCALLAN

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