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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Via email: [netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

6 December 2024

Dear Edward,

### **The Environmental Authorisations Scotland (Amendment) Regulations 2025**

Thank you for your letter of 3 December on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's approach to scrutiny of the above Regulations.

I agree with you that there is a clear public interest in ensuring that the Regulations are comprehensive, robust and workable and appreciate the Committee's diligent approach to its role in scrutinising the Regulations. Given the length and complexity of the Regulations, I therefore agree that there would be benefit in the Committee having additional time to consider the Regulations and the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in advance of the formal 40 day period for scrutiny under the Parliament's standing orders. I also note the Committee's other commitments at the present time and that the intervening festive period may make it difficult for stakeholders to provide comment. In the circumstances, I am content to formally withdraw the Regulations and re-lay them in the New Year in sufficient time to allow for completion of the Parliamentary process in advance of the proposed earliest coming into force date of 1 June 2025. I trust that this in turn will allow the Committee to offer a more realistic deadline for responses from the public bodies it has written to with an interest in these Regulations.

I note the questions included in the Committee's letter, and whilst I appreciate the offer that this date could be pushed back if the Regulations were to be withdrawn, I shall nevertheless endeavour to provide the Committee with a response by the 16 December as requested.

This letter is copied to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee for information.

Yours sincerely,

**GILLIAN MARTIN**

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