



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Gillian Martin  
Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy  
Scottish Government

**19 February 2025**

Dear Gillian,

### **Nomination for Chair of Environmental Standards Scotland**

Thank you for the most recent letter, of 14 January 2025, about the Scottish Government's appointment process for a new Chair of ESS. In it, you informed the Committee that the Scottish Government's nominee was Dr Richard Dixon. As well as including further information about the process, the letter also referenced Dr Dixon's relevant experience and qualifications.

The Committee had an evidence session with Dr Dixon on 18 February where we questioned him about matters including what skills and knowledge he thought he would bring to the role, his vision for ESS, views on its performance so far, and views on the main challenges and opportunities it would face under his tenure.

Members then discussed the evidence session in private so as to make a recommendation to Parliament and I am using this letter to set out our recommendation. I am pleased to say that the Committee was unanimously content to approve Dr Dixon's appointment to the Parliament as he appears well-suited for this important role and, in his answers, recognised the importance of ESS being a strong, independent voice.

In the event of the Parliament agreeing to his nomination, we wish Dr Dixon well as ESS Chair and look forward to working with him and the whole of ESS during the remainder of this Parliamentary session.

Yours sincerely,

**Edward Mountain MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**

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