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22 January 2025

Dear Edward,

I would like to provide members of the Committee with an update regarding the upcoming Climate Change Plan (CCP), following your letter on 17 January and given recent developments on the timing of advice on carbon budgets from the Climate Change Committee (CCC). As discussed during the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee session on 14 January, the CCC have confirmed that they will publish their advice on carbon budget levels for Scotland on 21 May 2025.

My officials are working to finalise timelines for the carbon budget regulations and upcoming Climate Change Plan on the basis of confirmed timescales for the provision of CCC advice, including next steps in the process of initiating legislative and parliamentary procedures. My intention would be to aim to lay the carbon budget regulations in late May, if possible within a week of receipt of CCC advice, and, if standard procedures are followed, under affirmative procedure and by convention, Parliament would have 54 days for consideration of the draft regulations.

Accounting for summer recess, under these standard procedures the earliest the carbon budgets could come into force would be after recess in September 2025, and after confirmation of carbon budgets I would aim for the draft CCP to be laid in Parliament and published in late September 2025, with the aim of publishing the final plan in spring 2026. This final publication date allows for 120 days of parliamentary scrutiny of the draft plan, in accordance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, leaving approximately eight weeks for Government to respond to this scrutiny and the accompanying public consultation in early 2026.

I would also like to clarify details around the funding arrangements for the CCC. The UK Government has the lead sponsorship role for the Climate Change Committee - this includes co-ordination of CCC funding on a four-countries basis and payment of this funding. The Scottish Government and other Devolved Governments contribute to the funding of the CCC.

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I hope this letter provides further assurance to members of the Committee on latest timescales under consideration for the next CCP. I will be in touch to confirm timescales in due course, and welcome discussion of any of the above with you if you would find it useful.



GILLIAN MARTIN

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