SUBMISSION SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to Parliamentary Committees on the RPP-2. Climate change is characterised by complexity and continues to present challenges for integrated delivery around multiple and shared objectives. Our responses are interdependent. We address the four main questions posed by the committees through specific comments on: peatlands\textsuperscript{1}; energy (including renewable developments on peatlands)\textsuperscript{2}; placemaking (including transport, active travel and planning)\textsuperscript{3} and the public sector\textsuperscript{4}.

**Public Sector**

1. SNH has been a lead body in reducing emissions by the public sector for over ten years, having cut our emissions by 32% since 2005 in both energy & work travel. We have installed 20 renewable energy systems at our properties, with an estimated energy output of some 1 MWh/year, saving 350 tCO\textsubscript{2}/y, with more projects planned. In our experience the assumption that all predicted savings in Carbon Management Plans will be achieved should be treated with caution for a number of reasons, such as: changed opportunities within bodies; reliance on progress by others to allow projects to begin (e.g. on transport infrastructure); and, securing large investments or investments for projects with a weak financial return during the economic downturn.

2. Improvements in the energy performance of public buildings requires commitment by participating public bodies (especially as sharing of facilities becomes more common), and clear agreement with developers and planners on minimum carbon standards for any buildings occupied by the public sector, their location and the transport infrastructure to serve them.

3. The Procurement Reform Bill provides a clear opportunity to require high sustainability and carbon standards of public procurement, providing an opportunity to get all public bodies and their suppliers onto the same footing.

4. Behaviour change requires long-term senior commitment and significant staff and time investment in order to achieve useful returns.

5. The Scottish Government electricity contract could be strengthened by requiring the supplier to provide new renewable electricity.

6. Given the ambition for low carbon electricity generation in Scotland, it would be useful for Scotland to set its own conversion factor to aid more accurate reporting, rather than continuing to rely on average UK figures from Defra.

Scottish Natural Heritage  
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\textsuperscript{1} Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee  
\textsuperscript{2} Energy, Enterprise and Tourism  
\textsuperscript{3} Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee  
\textsuperscript{4} Local Government and Regeneration Committee