Mr Rob Gibson  
Convenor of Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

10th November 2011

Dear Mr Gibson,

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland’s evidence on the budget

Following the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee’s meeting with the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 26th October, I thought it would be worth writing to clarify some of the issues raised in relation to our evidence.

The calculation methods we used in analysing the draft budget were questioned during the meeting. We consider that the figures and evidence we provided on transport issues are correct and the method we used in calculating those figures was stated in our written evidence. We would welcome any further information from the Government on why they may not be accurate if that is still felt to be the case.

However, in the case of energy efficiency, further analysis, following the additional information provided in the Minister’s letter of 11th October to the Committee, suggests the energy efficiency figures as outlined in Table 1 of our submission are incorrect. It appears that the emissions savings attributed to proposals in the RPP are set out cumulatively, whereas we had previously understood these to be year on year savings. We are seeking clarity from the Scottish Government on how budget commitments translate into RPP commitments. Until we receive this information, we are unable to provide replacement figures comparing the Budget and Spending Review with energy efficiency measures in the RPP.

We share the concerns, highlighted by members of the Committee in your meeting on 26th October, about the opaque nature of the Draft Budget and Spending Review and the RPP, and the lack of read across between the documents. We recognise that difficulties in comparing these documents may constrain this Committee’s, and other relevant Committees’, scrutiny of the Budget and Spending Review.

We remain concerned that energy efficiency measures are not receiving sufficient funding in the Budget and Spending Review. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland reiterates our call for £100m to be allocated for each year of the Spending Review to home energy efficiency measures.
I hope this provides Committee members with some clarity over the figures in our evidence. We would be happy to discuss this in more detail with Members if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Gail Wilson
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Co-ordinator

c.c. clerks of Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment; Infrastructure and Capital Investment; and Economy, Energy and Tourism Committees.