



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Tel: 0131 348 5249

ecclr.committee@parliament.scot

19 December 2019

Dear Presiding Officer,

Climate Change and the Scottish Parliament

I am writing to update you on recent developments in relation to climate change and the work of the ECCLR Committee and to highlight the potential for wider parliamentary engagement. The Committee would welcome discussion with you and members of the SPCB on this. The Committee is also writing in this regard to the Chief Executive.

Recent Developments

There have been a number of recent developments highlighting the need for urgent action on climate change:

- **Climate Emergency:** On 28 April 2019, the First Minister declared a “climate emergency” and announced that Scotland would “live up to our responsibility to tackle it”;
- **Net-Zero:** On 25 September the Scottish Parliament committed to Scotland reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 2045 and set a 2030 target of 75% reduction from 1990 levels;
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Significant and growing public awareness of and calls for action on climate change; and
- **United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 26)** – will take place in Glasgow in November 2020.
- **Advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change** – that in terms of action on climate change adaptation we should be planning for the possibility of a global 4 degrees rise in temperature.

- **Additional Scottish Government commitments and action:**
 - A Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change will be created to make recommendations to Ministers on how Scotland's net-zero transition should be achieved – following 'The Big Climate Conversation' announcement of June 2019.
 - Commitment to update the Climate Change Plan within 6 months of the Climate Change Bill receiving Royal Assent.
 - [Commitment to review all](#) policy areas to identify what can be done "further, faster" and place climate change at the heart of SG activity (including the Spending Review).
 - Commitment to a collaborative approach with the Parliament to carbon assessment of the SG Budget.

The Scottish Government has now committed to put climate considerations at the heart of policy, legislation and implementation.

ECCLR Committee consideration

The ECCLR Committee has been considering two questions:

1. **How can we embed climate change into decision making and the culture, across the organisation – to achieve a net-zero Parliament?**
2. **What do we need to do to ensure climate considerations are effectively embedded in parliamentary scrutiny?**

The Committee agreed to meet with you and senior colleagues/members of the SPCB to explore the level of ambition of the Parliament and Parliaments' role in leading action on climate change, how climate change and sustainable development should be part of the Parliament's Strategic Plan and how it interacts with the Parliament's values and:

- How Parliament, as an organisation, is realigning its activities to respond to the climate emergency, on top of statutory climate change duties.
- How culture and behaviour change across all building users in response to the climate emergency is being driven.
- How progress is monitored and reported on and how we are confident that best practice is being followed.
- What plans Parliament has to enhance and fund staff resource to carry out this work, and
- Plans for Parliament to engage in COP26.

The Committee has also agreed to pursue a number of actions in relation to climate scrutiny, including to:

- write to the Conveners Group to consider its role in embedding climate change in scrutiny.

- ask the public how the Scottish Parliament should be responding to the emergency and holding Government to account.
- Engage with the Scottish Government to explore how it is putting climate change at the heart of everything.
- lead thinking in the Parliament on Climate engagement – explore how to establish an open dialogue with the wider public.
- engage with parliamentary committees on the scrutiny of climate change.
- explore the merit in establishing an expert Climate Review or Advisory Group to help drive change, build capacity and enhance knowledge.
- develop the approach to climate change scrutiny, including scrutiny tools and collaborative working across committees, and
- focus scrutiny on key plans and programmes including the Climate Change Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Programme and Budget.

I have asked the clerks to discuss how best to pursue this with your office. In the first instance, it may be helpful to arrange an informal discussion.

Yours sincerely,

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Gillian Martin MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee



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Yours sincerely,



Gillian Martin MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee



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Dear Christine,

CONVENERS GROUP AND CLIMATE CHANGE

I am writing to update you on recent developments in relation to climate change and the work of the ECCLR Committee and to highlight the potential for wider parliamentary engagement.

There is now a new Climate Change Act setting revised targets for 2030 and 2045 and the Scottish Government has committed to put climate considerations at the heart of policy and legislation.

The ECCLR Committee has been considering two questions:

- 1. How can we embed climate change into decision making and the culture, across the organisation – to achieve a net-zero Parliament?**
- 2. What do we need to do to ensure climate considerations are effectively embedded in parliamentary scrutiny?**

The Committee agreed to write to the Conveners Group to invite it to consider its role in relation to climate change and explore the opportunity to:

- invite the First Minister to discuss the Scottish Governments' response and the process of embedding climate change thinking across Government,
- examine how the Scottish Government, agencies and public sector bodies are responding to the emergency, and
- consider climate scrutiny and collaborative working across committees.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this with you and the Group in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

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Gillian Martin MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee



The Scottish Parliament
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***Economy, Energy and Fair Work
Committee***

By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
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(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Tel: 0131 348 5249

emma.johnston@parliament.scot

19 December 2019

Dear Convener,

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

I am writing to update you on recent developments in relation to climate change and the work of the ECCLR Committee and to highlight the potential for wider parliamentary engagement.

There is now a new Climate Change Act setting revised targets for 2030 and 2045 and the Scottish Government has committed to put climate considerations at the heart of policy and legislation. The Scottish Government's Programme for Government contains a number of climate commitments that are relevant to the remit of your committee and you may wish to consider how the Scottish Government, agencies and public bodies within your remit are responding to the challenges of climate change.

By way of background information, in the annexe to this letter, I have set out a note on:

- Recent developments
- ECCLR Committee consideration of climate issues
- The focus of the ECCLR Committee's work on climate change

The Scottish Government will be producing an updated Climate Change Plan (CCP) at the end of April 2020 and have suggested that Parliament complete its scrutiny of the CCP within 30 days. The ECCLR Committee has considered this request and while the Committee recognises the need for urgency of action, it believes it is important that parliamentary committees have sufficient time to hear from stakeholders and report. The Committee also considers that it is important that Parliament as a whole has an opportunity to consider both the CCP and the committee reports on the CCP via a parliamentary debate. In order to achieve this the Committee considers that if the CCP is laid on 30 April, it should be possible to undertake parliamentary scrutiny before the summer recess, but the Committee has concerns with the

proposal of 30 days, and we plan to discuss this further with the Cabinet Secretary.

The Committee would welcome your view on this timing and on taking a collaborative approach to scrutiny, broadly replicating the approach taken to scrutiny of the current CCP. There is also scope to engage with stakeholders, including the Committee on Climate Change, in advance of the publication of the CCP. If you consider that a joint approach to scrutiny is desirable I will ask the Committee clerks to discuss this with your clerks to set out a proposal for a joint approach.

The ECCLR Committee is also in discussion with the Scottish Government on a joint approach to improving information on the climate impact of the budget and alignment of the Budget and the annual monitoring reports on the CCP. To ensure that the output of that joint work is useful for your committee, I will ask the Committee clerks to engage with your clerks and explore the possibility of including them in the arrangements for the officials working group.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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Gillian Martin MSP
Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Recent Developments

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The ECCLR Committee has been considering two questions:

1. **How can we embed climate change into decision making and the culture, across the organisation – to achieve a net-zero Parliament?**
2. **What do we need to do to ensure climate considerations are effectively embedded in parliamentary scrutiny?**

Plans for further engagement and action are set out below and you may wish to consider how the Scottish Government, agencies and public bodies within

your remit are responding to the climate emergency and meeting 2030 target and 2045 net-zero target.

Scottish Government action

The ECCLR Committee plans to engage directly with the First Minister to explore the action that the Scottish Government is taking across all directorates and the internal governance arrangements being put in place.

Chief Executive, Presiding Officer and SPCB

The ECCLR Committee also plans to engage directly with the Scottish Parliament's Chief Executive, Presiding Officer and SPCB to explore the level of ambition of the Parliament and Parliaments' role in leading action on climate change, how climate change and sustainable development should be part of the Parliament's Strategic Plan and how it interacts with the Parliament's values. The Committee will also be exploring Parliament's ambition in relation to COP26.

Convener's Group

The Committee agreed to encourage the Group to consider its role and explore the opportunity to:

- invite the First Minister to discuss the Scottish Governments' response and the process of embedding climate change thinking across Government.
- examine how the Scottish Government, agencies and public sector bodies are responding to the emergency, and
- consider climate scrutiny and collaborative working across committees.

Wider public engagement

How Parliament engages with the public on climate issues is crucial. Given the scale of change needed to achieve net-zero, public engagement is important to allow people to understand and influence the actions to be taken by government, business and individuals. Amendments to the Climate Change Bill to establish a Citizens' Assembly were widely supported and the Committee agreed to promote a wider discussion across the Parliament and with the Scottish Government on this. The Committee agreed that the aims of engagement across committees and Parliament as a whole should be to:

- increase public understanding of the implications of the climate emergency and the steps being taken by Government and Parliament to address it.
- establish a dialogue with a diverse public about their priorities for action to achieve net-zero and the steps Government should take to support/achieve the priority actions.
- explore how public buy-in can be achieved for the policy and individual changes required.

- The ECCLR Committee also plans to engage with stakeholders and communities to ask how Parliament should engage with them in response to the climate emergency.

Climate Change Scrutiny – embedding climate considerations

Early in 2020, the ECCLR Committee will be considering how Parliament could embed consideration of climate in the wider approach to committees' consideration of sustainable development. The Committee plans to develop and trial scrutiny tools to support committees to take climate change considerations into account, building on work already carried out on sustainable development scrutiny - to aid scrutiny of policy and legislation.

Focus of Climate Change work

The Committee agreed to prioritise key issues and work streams and work collaboratively with other Committees, focussing on:

The Scottish Government updated Climate Change Plan (CCP)

The Scottish Government has committed to produce an updated Climate Change Plan by 30 April 2020, in light of the revised climate change targets for Scotland. This sits out-with the timeframes specified in the Act. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform has indicated a preference to see parliamentary scrutiny completed within 30 days of the CCP being laid. The Committee is concerned about the proposed timescale but recognises the desirability of concluding consideration before the summer recess. Given the views previously expressed by committees and the practical challenges of considering, reporting on and debating the CCP, the ECCLR Committee is suggesting that if the CCP is laid on 30 April a contracted period of 8 weeks (38 working days) to complete consideration of the CCP would be the minimum time required.

The Committee would welcome your view on this. The Committee would also welcome your view on taking a collaborative approach to considering the CCP. Each could scrutinise and report on the parts of the Plan aligned to its remit, based on an agreed set of questions e.g.:

- progress to date in cutting emissions within the sector/sectors of interest and implementing the proposals and policies set out in RPP1 – 3.
- the scale of reductions proposed within the sectors and appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposals and policies within the draft RPP3 for meeting the annual emissions targets and contributing towards the 2030 and 2045 targets.
- the appropriateness of the timescales over which the proposals and policies are expected to take effect.
- the extent to which the proposals and policies reflect considerations about behaviour change and opportunities to secure wider benefits (e.g. environmental, financial and health) from specific interventions in particular sectors.

The committees who are most likely to be engaged are: Rural Economy and Connectivity, Economy Energy and Fair Work, Local Government and Communities and Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

Ahead of the updated plan being laid, all Parliamentary Committees could consider what work they could do to inform their scrutiny of the CCP, including a collaborative approach to engagement and discussion of the CCC Progress Report, hearing from the Scottish Government and Cabinet Secretaries and, considering what further specific work could be done to inform scrutiny.

The annual Climate Change Plan (CCP) monitoring reports

The Climate Change Act places a requirement on the Scottish Government to produce an annual CCP progress report by May each year. It is envisaged that this report would be considered by subject committees and would inform scrutiny of the Scottish Government Budget. The Committee will invite each committee to consider the report, and co-ordinate parliamentary scrutiny of committee responses to the Scottish Government on behalf of the committees of the Parliament. The Committee may also wish to pursue a Parliamentary debate on the Scottish Government report.

Adapting to Climate Change – the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)

The Scottish Government published the second statutory five-year Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) for 2019-24 on 23 September 2019. The actions highlighted engage the remits of all subject committees and this is the first opportunity to explore the Scottish Government's commitment to a whole policy approach in response to the climate emergency. The Committee explored this with the Committee on Climate Change (the independent scientific adviser on climate change) on 5 November. The Committee heard that while there is a desire to work towards maintaining a global temperature rise of no more than 1.5C in terms of action to adapt to climate change, Scotland should be planning for the possibility of a 4C rise in temperature. The Committee will now be considering the need to hear from experts and stakeholders and engage with other Committees to consider the effectiveness of the proposed action.

The Scottish Government Budget

The Scottish Government has committed to working collaboratively with the Scottish Parliament to review the GHG impact of the Scottish Government Budget and ensure the Scottish Government's infrastructure investment plans are accompanied by a full assessment of climate impact. The Committee has suggested a remit for this work and has suggested the establishment of a short-term working group of officials to progress it. It would be helpful to include a clerk from the Finance and Constitution Committee and from a subject Committee.

Public Sector Reporting Duties

The Scottish Government established a working group to review the public sector reporting duties. This concluded there is significant scope to improve the reporting duty and the associated analysis and communication of the data collected. The Big Climate Conversation has now consulted on the role of the

Public Sector in decarbonising Scotland, how the Public Sector Reporting Duties can be revised to support that, and what networking support or guidance the Scottish Government can appropriately and helpfully provide. The consultation responses will inform the update to the Climate Change Plan and improvements to the Reporting Duties. The Committee has agreed to scrutinise the outcome of this work. In the debate on the Climate Change Bill, the Cabinet Secretary undertook to bring forward related secondary legislation. The Committee may wish to engage other committees in the scrutiny of this.

Building capacity, knowledge and understanding across the Parliament

The Committee agreed to explore the merit in establishing an expert Climate Review or Advisory Group to help drive change, build capacity and enhance knowledge. The Committee also agreed to consider the requirement for a central resource to support committees embedding of climate change in policy, scrutiny and legislative processes. We will be discussing this with the Parliament's Chief Executive.

The Committee is sponsoring the SPICe and Scotland's Futures Forum seminar series: Climate and the ecological crisis. This is currently underway and will culminate in November 2020 with the Climate COP26 in Glasgow.



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**Local Government and
Communities Committee**
By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
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I look forward to hearing from you.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

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Ahead of the updated plan being laid, all Parliamentary Committees could consider what work they could do to inform their scrutiny of the CCP, including a collaborative approach to engagement and discussion of the CCC Progress Report, hearing from the Scottish Government and Cabinet Secretaries and, considering what further specific work could be done to inform scrutiny.

The annual Climate Change Plan (CCP) monitoring reports

The Climate Change Act places a requirement on the Scottish Government to produce an annual CCP progress report by May each year. It is envisaged that this report would be considered by subject committees and would inform scrutiny of the Scottish Government Budget. The Committee will invite each committee to consider the report, and co-ordinate parliamentary scrutiny of committee responses to the Scottish Government on behalf of the committees of the Parliament. The Committee may also wish to pursue a Parliamentary debate on the Scottish Government report.

Adapting to Climate Change – the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)

The Scottish Government published the second statutory five-year Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) for 2019-24 on 23 September 2019. The actions highlighted engage the remits of all subject committees and this is the first opportunity to explore the Scottish Government's commitment to a whole policy approach in response to the climate emergency. The Committee explored this with the Committee on Climate Change (the independent scientific adviser on climate change) on 5 November. The Committee heard that while there is a desire to work towards maintaining a global temperature rise of no more than 1.5C in terms of action to adapt to climate change, Scotland should be planning for the possibility of a 4C rise in temperature. The Committee will now be considering the need to hear from experts and stakeholders and engage with other Committees to consider the effectiveness of the proposed action.

The Scottish Government Budget

The Scottish Government has committed to working collaboratively with the Scottish Parliament to review the GHG impact of the Scottish Government Budget and ensure the Scottish Government's infrastructure investment plans are accompanied by a full assessment of climate impact. The Committee has suggested a remit for this work and has suggested the establishment of a short-term working group of officials to progress it. It would be helpful to include a clerk from the Finance and Constitution Committee and from a subject Committee.

Public Sector Reporting Duties

The Scottish Government established a working group to review the public sector reporting duties. This concluded there is significant scope to improve the reporting duty and the associated analysis and communication of the data

collected. The Big Climate Conversation has now consulted on the role of the Public Sector in decarbonising Scotland, how the Public Sector Reporting Duties can be revised to support that, and what networking support or guidance the Scottish Government can appropriately and helpfully provide. The consultation responses will inform the update to the Climate Change Plan and improvements to the Reporting Duties. The Committee has agreed to scrutinise the outcome of this work. In the debate on the Climate Change Bill, the Cabinet Secretary undertook to bring forward related secondary legislation. The Committee may wish to engage other committees in the scrutiny of this.

Building capacity, knowledge and understanding across the Parliament

The Committee agreed to explore the merit in establishing an expert Climate Review or Advisory Group to help drive change, build capacity and enhance knowledge. The Committee also agreed to consider the requirement for a central resource to support committees embedding of climate change in policy, scrutiny and legislative processes. We will be discussing this with the Parliament's Chief Executive.

The Committee is sponsoring the SPICe and Scotland's Futures Forum seminar series: Climate and the ecological crisis. This is currently underway and will culminate in November 2020 with the Climate COP26 in Glasgow.