Written submission from Scottish Environment Link

We are aware the Committee is taking evidence from the Crown Estate next week.

Please find attached a LINK Governance Group response to the SG consultation on interim arrangements, post-Smith Commission, which urges Scottish Ministers to:

1. define “good management” to embed principles of Sustainable Development and environmental stewardship in the interim body’s corporate approach;

2. ensure the public accountability of the interim body;

3. set a clear timetable for the development of a more considered legislative framework for managing Crown Estate assets in Scotland

Our Marine Group members have a strong interest in marine planning and view it as an important mechanism for sustainable development – including the much-needed enhancement of the health of Scotland’s seas. We have set out these views in our recently published ‘Living with the seas’ report. In preparation of regional marine plans, Marine Scotland should – by virtue of the shared UK Marine Policy Statement “give consideration to the social and economic benefits that the enhancement of marine ecosystems can provide, including to coastal communities.” We also note that effective marine planning urgently requires money and resources, a point we made in our 2016 Scottish Parliamentary Election Marine Briefing.

We therefore suggest that revenues from the interim body could be used to help take forward effective marine planning in Scotland.