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22 January 2026

Dear Stuart,

### **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Bill**

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 January 2026 regarding my letter to the Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 31 December 2025, into which you were copied. My letter set out the Scottish Government's final position agreed with the UK Government in relation to legislative consent for the BBNJ Bill, including expected amendments to the Bill and non-statutory underpinning working arrangements to support its operation. That letter was shared in advance of the final amendments being tabled and the second (final) supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) being lodged in Parliament. I am very pleased that the Scottish Parliament has now voted to give its consent to the BBNJ Bill.

As detailed in my letter, and set out in the second supplementary LCM, we have agreed with the UK Government to put in place working arrangements to ensure that the Scottish Government is appropriately involved across all provisions of the Bill.

These working arrangements will build on existing intergovernmental frameworks and structures, such as the Four Nations Biodiversity Group, and other similar fora, through which Scottish Government officials already engage effectively and regularly on international issues with the UK Government and Devolved Governments. They will also be underpinned by [Concordat on International Relations](#) in the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and devolved administrations, and will cover, for example, how we will work together to form a UK-wide negotiating position ahead of the BBNJ Conference of Parties and in the preparation of relevant UK secondary legislation to implement decisions of the Conference of Parties.

We are still working through, with the UK Government, what the final form of these arrangements will look like, and are also aware that these structures will need to be flexible and respond to need.

I will write to you, copying in the Convenor of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, to provide full details on these arrangements in due course once they have been finalised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Martin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Gillian' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Martin'.

**GILLIAN MARTIN**