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Dear Ariane,

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Committee on 13 January. I am writing to follow up on this appearance to provide, as promised, the further detail on the datasets that will be used to monitor progress on the public and residential buildings chapter of the draft Climate Change Plan.

A refreshed monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed to align with the carbon budget approach and the policy package set out in the Climate Change Plan. Greenhouse gas emissions will continue to be monitored, with the updated framework placing greater emphasis on assessing progress at a more granular, sub-sectoral level.

My officials are reviewing elements of the existing monitoring and evaluation approach to identify what continues to work well and remains relevant under the new Plan; drawing in new indicators to capture recent progress delivering key actions where data availability allows.

Trends across emissions data, indicators, and policy implementation will be considered together to evaluate progress and to identify where additional action, adjustment, or further analysis may be required.

In the Buildings sector, emissions pathways have been developed in line with the 2045 clean heat target. The indicators used will largely align with those set out in the Heat in Buildings Monitoring and Evaluation Framework published in 2023, and reported against in the current Heat in Buildings: progress report 2025¹. In addition we will use two new data sources now available due to improvements in data sources. Both concern public buildings.

1. Non-Domestic Analytics (NDA):

NDA is produced by the Energy Savings Trust (EST) and provides address-level information about non-domestic properties in Scotland using a subset of the public buildings stock. The public sector building data within the NDA is a new development, and is currently classed as experimental. This means that future revisions to this data are possible. Currently this allows us to access data on the type of heating system in public buildings, and the EPC rating of public buildings.

2. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reports:

Public bodies have a duty to report on their emissions. This report considers emissions in a variety of 'scopes' (with scope 1 being direct emissions i.e. heating systems of buildings). This means that this public sector reporting data is useful for tracking the pace of Scotland's progress in decarbonising public buildings. However

¹ [Heat in Buildings: progress report 2025 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/heat-in-buildings-progress-report-2025/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

it is likely the emissions figures will not be directly comparable to our pathway emissions due to minor differences in scope and methodology.

We will also publish, by the end of 2026, a Heat in Buildings Strategy and Delivery Plan which sets out the actions on the part of the Scottish Government and others which will be designed to enable and achieve this target. The Plan will detail the actions within the Scottish Government's control, identify key delivery dependencies across sectors and levels of governance – including asks of the UK Government and the impact of their activities in Scotland. The Plan will set out timelines and priorities in areas like skills and supply chain growth. It will be co-developed with stakeholders and will articulate how we will work collectively to achieve our vision – across Scottish, UK and local government as well as with the private sector and individuals.

We discussed regulatory sequencing at both the session on the Climate Change Plan and on 20 January in relation to the draft Budget. I will write separately on this as soon as possible

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Màiri McAllan MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Housing