

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Convener Edward Mountain
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
netzero.committee@parliament.scot

31 October 2024

Dear Edward,

During Stage 2 of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill on Tuesday I said I would follow up on two issues.

Funding of the Climate Change Committee

There was discussion surrounding amendment 62 regarding the funding of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and reports on its sufficiency. As previously mentioned in my response to the Committee's Stage 1 Report, the advice received from the CCC next year will be a fundamental consideration in the development of the carbon budget levels established in the secondary legislation that will follow this Bill. The Scottish Government recognises the importance of the CCC and its advice. We remain committed to working with the CCC and providing it with the resources and information needed to carry out its valued role in supporting and monitoring progress to the net zero target for Scotland.

As I have stated to the Committee, the CCC is an organisation that provides support to the UK Government and all of the devolved administrations. As such, only a portion of the funding the CCC receives is provided by the Scottish Government to fund advice specific to Scotland, with the rest of the funding from the Scottish Government provided on a pro rata basis to support UK-wide research and analysis which also benefits Scotland.

We will always endeavour to ensure that the CCC is fully funded for functions relating to Scotland, and we are continually keeping the CCC's resourcing under review. This includes being in regular contact with the CCC about its role in supporting Scotland and ensuring that the CCC has the information it requires to provide its advice. These conversations take place regularly at official level, through our CCC Sponsor Group, which has representation from all four nations and which regularly reviews resourcing issues, and at Ministerial level, for example through the Net Zero Inter-Ministerial Group. During these meetings and via correspondence, the Scottish Government works closely with the CCC and our co-sponsors in the UK Government and other devolved administrations to ensure that it has the resources and information so it can provide expert advice to support Scotland towards the net zero target in 2045.

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Net Zero Assessment

The Scottish Government's new Net Zero Assessment aims to embed quantitative carbon assessment at the early stages of our decision-making. Ensuring we have a consistent evidence base which meets set standards is one of the main aims of Net Zero Assessment. Our overall analytical approach is centred on Treasury Green Book appraisal principles, the well-established approach that underpins all government economic analysis and appraisal within Scottish Government.

In terms of independent scrutiny of our Net Zero Assessment pilot, the Scottish Government has had ongoing engagement with Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG) and has taken views from technical experts, most recently at a workshop hosted by CERG on 29 October. We are also looking at commissioning independent expert assurance of the methodology deployed in the pilot.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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