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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

30 June 2025

Dear Edward,

For the record, I want to clarify information around Scottish Ministers' purchase and ownership of Glen Prosen estate, and in so doing, to address some of the misinformation that appears to be circulating.

During the 22nd Meeting 2025, Session 6 of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, as the Convenor you stated the following:

'As a stipulation of the sale, which the Government required, the employees were made redundant before the Government purchased the land. I think that that illustrates that there are problems.'

The Glen Prosen estate came into public ownership in November 2022 and is now managed on behalf of ministers by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The seller ran Glen Prosen as a sporting estate – they wound down their business including making the workforce redundant (i.e. five employees). This was a decision made by the previous owner. It was not a stipulation / clause included by FLS, nor was it a requirement of the purchase.

Likewise, FLS did not terminate anyone's employment or ask anyone to move off the land.

FLS engaged with the employees as soon as they were legally able to do so and offered tenancies, and a contract opportunity to one former employee, who accepted the opportunity and worked for FLS part-time for a period of six months. FLS also offered or provided three of the former employees with rented accommodation on site.

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FLS has additionally provided a local farmer with rented accommodations and grazing opportunities for cattle and sheep.

I hope you can appreciate why I feel it is important to clarify this matter and correct any misunderstanding regarding the purchase of the Glen Prosen estate.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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