



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Gillian Martin MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy  
Scottish Government

11 June 2025

Dear Gillian

### Carbon budget regulations and climate change plan timeline

Thank you for your [letter of 9 June](#) which the Committee considered at yesterday's meeting when we discussed our work programme.

It continues to concern the Committee that the Scottish Government is not able to provide a revised expected date for the laying of the carbon budget regulations. This concern grows the longer the wait for them continues, given that approval of the regulations is a precursor to the laying of a draft Climate Change Plan. There appears to be a growing risk that, if the Scottish Government's aim is still to finalise the Climate Change Plan before dissolution next Spring, the Parliament may struggle to fulfil the scrutiny role laid out for it in law. The Committee therefore agreed that I should write to you again.

In order to provide public clarity on this matter of public interest and to help the Committee and other committees plan ahead, I would be grateful for responses on the following points:

1. Is it still the Scottish Government's position that it will lay a Climate Change Plan before the Scottish Parliament, in accordance with section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, *before* the dissolution of the current Parliamentary session?
2. The Committee notes the formal legal requirement, under section 35A(1)(b) of the 2009 Act for the Scottish Government to "have regard" to various matters, including any reports or resolutions of the Scottish Parliament relating to the draft Climate Change Plan laid by the Scottish Parliament in advance of laying the finalised Plan. What do you consider the minimum acceptable time period between (a) the 120-day period laid out in law for Parliamentary consideration of the draft plan reaching an end and (b) the Scottish Government laying the concluded Plan?

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We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

3. Working back from the answer to question 2, on what date do you estimate the regulations setting the carbon budget must be laid, in order to trigger the series of milestones that would ensure this minimum time period between the 120 days of Parliamentary consideration and the laying of the final Plan is met?

It would be helpful if, in answering question 3, you could show how you reached this date, by setting set out estimated “backstop” dates for:

- Laying of the carbon budget regulations (and it would also be helpful if you could confirm that the Scottish Government will lay the regulations by this date, or instead intends to lay them by an earlier, specified date) and
- The laying of the draft Plan in the Parliament.

We recognise that the Parliamentary timeline includes some minor variables, such as the gap between the Committee reporting on the carbon budget regulations and the motion to approve them being taken in the Chamber and understand that any dates provided would be reasonable best estimates.

I would be grateful for a response by 17 June so that the Committee may consider this issue further at our 24 June meeting, when the work programme will again be on the agenda. This would also give me the opportunity to update the Conveners Group meeting on 18 June on any key points raised in your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Edward Mountain MSP**

**Convener**