



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

26 June 2025

Dear Gillian

Next Climate Change Plan

I wrote to you on [11 June](#) seeking further information on the laying of the first Scottish carbon budget regulations and the scheduling of the next Climate Change Plan, in both its draft and final forms. I note your response of [17 June](#) and your further letter of [19 June](#), confirming the laying of the regulations on that day. In particular, I note that, in your 17 June letter, you said that having a new Plan in place within this Parliament (i.e. before dissolution sometime in late March 2026) remained the Scottish Government's "key goal" whilst also "respecting the statutory timescales for different stages and ensuring that advice is properly considered before making critical decisions".

As I think you would agree, we are entering a critical period for the Parliament in which the timing of key milestones on the journey to have a finalised Plan in place before the election become crucial. In particular, were the Scottish Government to lay a draft Plan close to the end of the statutory maximum two-month period for doing so (this starting on the day after carbon budget regulations come into force) this would seem to call into question whether there would be time for a finalised Plan to be laid before dissolution in accordance with the requirements set out in statute.¹

I am therefore writing to ask you for an update on when the Scottish Government now proposes to lay a draft Plan. In doing so, I ask you to note that:

- (a) the Committee must report on the carbon regulations by no later than 1 October. It is possible this could be done a few days earlier:
- (b) It would therefore appear to be an option for the Parliament to take a motion from the Minister for Parliamentary Business to approve the regulations shortly the October recess.

In answering, it would also be of assistance if you make clear whether your position remains the same as in your [22 January letter](#) to the Committee in which referring to

¹ Climate Change (Scotland) Act, s35A

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a then-anticipated scenario of carbon budget regulations being laid in late May 2025, you told us that:

“Accounting for summer recess, under these standard procedures the earliest the carbon budgets could come into force would be after recess in September 2025, and after confirmation of carbon budgets I would aim for the draft CCP to be laid in Parliament and published in **late September** 2025 [Emphasis added]”

This appears to envisage a period of a few days between the regulations coming into force and the draft Plan being laid. Does this remain the Scottish Government’s goal in order to help ensure a finalised Plan can be laid in this session?

A response setting out a date, or date range, for laying the draft, based on an assumption of the regulations (if approved) coming into force just before October recess, would be helpful to the Committee for its own forward planning, as well as to other Parliamentary committees looking to engage in that important scrutiny work. It may also provide clarity to the Parliament, and others outside of the Parliament with an interest in this matter, on whether the goal of having a finalised Plan in place before the election appears to remain realistic and within reach.

I request a response by 25 July.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener