

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

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener,
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

15 December 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to you to inform the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee that the Scottish Government has published the [Peatland ACTION 5-Year Partnership Plan](#) on 15 December 2025 and launched the plan with a Government Initiated Question. This publication is part of the Scottish Government's continued commitment to restoring degraded peatland in Scotland, and to tackling the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. I have also written separately to the convener of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

The draft Climate Change Plan sets out the Scottish Government's ambition to increase peatland restoration by 10% each year to 2030 and maintain levels after that leading to the restoration of more than 400,000 hectares by 2040. Within this, we will look to increase the proportion of the most highly degraded and emitting peat that is restored. These policies reflect an increase in our ambition and acknowledge the work underway to grow this relatively young industry.

The 5-Year Partnership Plan published today sets out realistic and achievable activity to show what the peatland sector in Scotland has the capacity, skills and capabilities to deliver. It identifies three themes as the partnership's key priorities over the next 5 years:

- Further – Expand peatland restoration in Scotland
- Fairer – Support a Just Transition through restoration
- Better – Improve how we work and solve technical challenges

The actions set out in the plan aim to address barriers to further upscaling, build delivery capacity and stability in the sector, simplify processes, increase funding certainty, build a long-term pipeline of investible restoration projects, create economic opportunities for rural communities and demonstrate that peatland restoration can, in the right circumstances, integrate with established land-uses.

Engagement with the sector has and will continue to inform peatland restoration planning and delivery. Lessons learned and achievements from this phase of delivery will inform our

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future approach, ensuring the partnership remains focused on the right priorities, at the right time, as we progress toward the Scottish Government's proposed 2040 restoration target.

I welcome this opportunity to highlight the Peatland ACTION 5 Year Partnership Plan and look forward to working together to advance this important work.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

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

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