

Dr Richard Dixon
Chair
Environmental Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

ENVIRONMENTAL
Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

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

10 October 2025

Dear Mr Mountain,

I am writing to confirm that Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) has today laid its proposed Strategy for the period of 2026-2031 before the Scottish Parliament for approval. This is in line with the requirements of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021.

Our new Strategy reflects the feedback received through our public consultation on a draft Strategy that we ran between June – August 2025. Alongside the proposed Strategy, an accompanying statement sets out:

- a summary of the views expressed through the public consultation on a draft Strategy and how these views are reflected in the proposed Strategy
- a summary of the impact assessments conducted alongside the new proposed Strategy
- ESS' final response to the recommendation made by Scottish Ministers in November 2024 following their review of environmental governance

Finally, we have also published an independent summary of responses to our consultation that we commissioned from an external party.

Environmental Standards Scotland Enquiries

enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD
0808 1964000

I note that the Continuity Act includes a period for parliamentary approval of our Strategy of up to 40 days and I look forward to the Parliament's consideration of it.

We would be delighted to appear before the Committee to answer questions on the new Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Dixon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Richard Dixon
Chair

Environmental Standards Scotland Enquiries

enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD
0808 1964000