

Finlay Carson MSP  
Convener  
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
Scottish Parliament

06 June 2025

Dear Finlay,

**Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill**  
**Amendment to NatureScot letter 29 May 2025**

I wrote to the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee on 29 May to give additional information following the evidence session on 30 April.

I am writing to you now to correct an error in that letter. The error is in the response to question 6 on page 7 of my letter which states; *“Stakeholders asked for an explanation of the reasons behind proposals in the Bill to change timescales for making objections from 28 days to 14...”* The question relates to section 16 – control schemes (paragraph 130 in the explanatory notes). Specifically, to the timescale for objections to modifications of a control scheme by Ministers.

My previous answer stated that this is one of a series of measures to streamline regulation and remove barriers to action. However, I can confirm that there is no change to the timescales for making objections to any modifications proposed by the Bill. The timescale remains the same as in the current Deer (Scotland) Act, i.e. 14 days.

Apologies for any confusion.

Yours sincerely,

**Robbie Kernahan**  
Director of Green Economy

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NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage