

Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill and Biodiversity Data

Letter from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 16 June 2025

Dear Mark Ruskell,

Many thanks to you and the rest of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee for the opportunity to provide evidence on the Natural Environment Bill. You had asked about sources of data for biodiversity to help inform the setting of statutory targets; and in my answer to that question I noted that a wealth of data is available across EIAs, records centres and other sources such as site condition monitoring, but that it needs to be centralised and made more accessible in general. The [Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum \(SBIF\) has made a number of recommendations](#) on this subject in 2018 and these have been updated in 2024. The [Better Biodiversity Data project](#) is driving forward some of the SBIF recommendations.

I hope this information is helpful to you and the Committee. CIEEM looks forward to further engagement on the Bill in due course."

Yours sincerely

CIEEM Vice President

Dr Caroline McParland CBiol MRSB CEnv MCIEEM, Based in Glasgow