



Finlay Carson MSP
Convener of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Scottish Parliament
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23 February 2026

Dear Finlay,

I am pleased to inform the Committee that the Scottish Government will today publish the new National Islands Plan and its accompanying Implementation Route Map. This follows the laying of the draft Plan before Parliament on 4 December. Both the final Plan and the Implementation Route Map are enclosed with this letter will also be available on the Scottish Government's [website](#).

As outlined in my correspondence of 4 December 2025, the Plan has been shaped through extensive engagement with island communities, local authorities and a wide range of delivery partners, ensuring that its structure and priorities reflect islanders' views and experiences. Compared to the first iteration, the new Plan contains a reduced number of commitments, focused on practical, island-specific actions, and supported by a detailed Implementation Route Map. Taken together, these documents set out a coherent strategic vision aimed at strengthening long-term resilience and supporting sustainable population growth and attraction across Scotland's islands.

With the publication of the final Plan, focus will now shift to its implementation, with delivery commencing in the 2026–27 financial year. Successful delivery will depend on sustained and effective collaboration with a wide range of key partners, particularly local authorities, who have played a central role throughout the Plan's development. My officials will continue to build on these established partnerships to support robust implementation and to enable locally led solutions that respond to communities' needs, priorities, and aspirations.

In line with the requirements of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, the Scottish Government will monitor and report on progress through an Annual Report to the Scottish Parliament, providing a transparent account of delivery against each strategic objective.

As we approach the first year of implementation, my officials would be pleased to keep the Committee informed of developments relating to the Plan and its delivery. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you require any further information.



Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON MSP

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