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Stuart McMillan MSP  
Convener  
Climate Action Committee  
[climateaction.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:climateaction.committee@parliament.scot)

06 October 2026

Dear Stuart,

I agreed to write to you to clarify a few points raised during my recent Climate Action Committee appearance.

During my Committee appearance I referred to the Ministerial Delivery Group on Climate Change and committed to write to you with further information on this Group.

As the Programme for Government (PfG) sets out, climate action remains a key priority and defining mission for this government. Given my cross-government responsibility to coordinate climate action I have, therefore, established a Ministerial Delivery Group on climate to enhance coordination on cross cutting issues which impact on the delivery of the policies within our key climate strategies. The Committee may recall that previous cross-government coordination was discharged via the Cabinet Sub Committee for the Climate and Nature Emergency (CSC-CNE).

The Delivery Group will allow us to drive early and sustained progress to support Scotland's decarbonisation pathway and address the urgent need to accelerate action as climate risks like increased flooding, droughts, wildfires and coastal erosion continue to escalate. The Group reflects the recognition that there are significant interdependencies across portfolios which need to be collectively managed and it will be essential to work together in order to deliver on them.

The full membership of the group is:

- Gillian Martin MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs;
- Stephen Flynn MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport;
- Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care
- Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Business and Fair Work

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- Stephen Gethins MSP, Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy
- Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands
- Alison Thewliss MSP, Minister for Community Care (jointly sharing responsibilities for Health with Ms Constance)
- Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs (jointly sharing responsibilities for Health with Ms Constance)
- Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP, Minister for Public Finance (also covering the Finance and Local Government portfolio on behalf of the Deputy First Minister)

## **Circular Economy funding streams and work to support projects**

Zero Waste Scotland has a dedicated Business Support team supporting the transition to more circular business practices across Scotland. They are currently the Challenge Sponsor for the Scottish Government CivTech challenge, exploring how technology can help businesses demonstrate the commercial value of circular economy practices. The aim is to strengthen business and investor confidence and make it easier for businesses to assess and pursue circular opportunities. Each round sponsors a circular economy award which provides up to £100,000 investment to the winning business, with Zero Waste Scotland contributing £36,000. Through its support for the Circular Economy EDGE award ([Scottish EDGE | Special Awards](#)), Zero Waste Scotland helps encourage and back entrepreneurs developing circular business models and ideas. The award provides funding of up to £100,000 to the successful circular business idea.

Zero Waste Scotland can also offer small amounts of grant finance as a means of supporting projects aligned to their goal of rewiring Scotland's economic system and accelerating the transition to a circular economy in Scotland.

Additionally, this year Glasgow Chambers of Commerce has received £88,000 to deliver a CE Leadership programme to senior business leaders in the city, and run a series of three business engagement roundtables to help understand barriers and opportunities to advancing CE in the city. In addition, Zero Waste Scotland has provided funding for a CE Coordinator to support implementation of the CirculariTAY strategy and action plan. The post is hosted by Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce and funding will total £80,000 over 18 months.

As Scotland's national economic development agency, Scottish Enterprise supports businesses across Scotland to adopt circular economy practices through advice, innovation support and partnership working. It provides support across the full spectrum of circular economy activity, helping businesses identify and capitalise on opportunities in circular design and production, circular use, value recovery and other circular business models.

In addition to support from Scottish Enterprise, both Highlands and Islands Enterprise and South of Scotland Enterprise provide assistance to businesses across their regions. Alongside Zero Waste Scotland, all three agencies work collaboratively to help businesses adopt circular economy practices, including reducing waste, increasing reuse and improving resource efficiency.

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## Scottish Environment LINK Tracker of Scottish Biodiversity Delivery Plan actions

While we recognise Scottish Environment LINK's tracker and its identification of 16 delayed and 33 not started actions, it is important to note that these assessments are based on external analysis of publicly available evidence and may not fully reflect the breadth of activity being undertaken across the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. It is also important to recognise that actions within the Delivery Plan (2024-2030) have different delivery timelines and dependencies, meaning that some actions are scheduled to commence later in the delivery cycle and would not, therefore, be expected to show significant progress at this stage.

Ensuring a robust approach to monitoring and evaluation is a key condition for success set out within the Strategy. Our approach includes three-yearly assessments of a suite of indicators to measure progress towards the Strategy's outcomes, alongside annual assessments of Delivery Plan actions. This evidence is used to inform decision-making and identify any corrective action required to drive progress towards our ambitions, including future statutory nature restoration targets. The first statutory report on delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will be published in 2027 and will provide an opportunity to assess overall progress towards achieving the Strategy's outcomes, while also informing the mid-review of our six-year rolling Delivery Plans.



**GILLIAN MARTIN**

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