Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Gnìomhachd na Gnàth-shìde agus Cùisean Dùthchail
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Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

06 November 2026

Dear Convener,

I am copying this letter to Bob Doris as Convener of Public Service Reform Committee and to the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform

I am writing to inform the Committee that, following consideration of options under the Scottish Government's Public Service Reform programme, I have decided that Scottish Forestry will continue as a stand-alone Executive Agency. I am grateful for the constructive engagement from stakeholders, and for the discussion with the Committee, as I considered this decision.

In reaching this decision, I have taken account of the distinctive role of forestry in delivering Scotland's ambitions for climate, nature and sustainable economic growth, the long-term nature of forestry investment, and the importance of maintaining confidence across the sector.

Scotland's forestry sector makes a vital contribution to tackling climate change, restoring nature, supporting rural communities and growing our economy. The sector contributes more than £1 billion annually to the Scottish economy and supports more than 34,000 jobs.

I am satisfied that maintaining a dedicated forestry agency will help ensure the continued focus, expertise and leadership required to deliver our long-term ambitions. It will provide stability and continuity for the sector, support continued private investment in woodland creation, and ensure clear accountability for delivery of Scotland's forestry ambitions and woodland creation targets.

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While Scottish Forestry will remain a stand-alone Executive Agency, it will continue to play its part in the wider Public Service Reform programme. I expect Scottish Forestry to continue working closely with partner organisations to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, deliver value for money, strengthen collaboration and enhance outcomes for the people and environment of Scotland.



GILLIAN MARTIN

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