



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs Committee

Neil Gray MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Scottish Government

Jim Fairlie MSP
Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands
Scottish Government

CC
David Linden
Convener, Criminal Justice Committee

Stuart McMillan
Convener, Climate Action Committee

16 September 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Minister,

Wildfires

I am writing regarding the [statement on the Cairngorms wildfire](#) made to the Scottish Parliament on 3 September 2026.

During that statement, you referred to a “multi-agency review and debrief to examine the specific circumstances of the incident and to capture learning” and an “urgent review of the Government’s strategic action plan on wildfires”. I also understand that Chief Officer Stevens has commissioned an independently facilitated review of the incident.

Given the considerable public interest in not only the response to this wildfire and others which occurred this summer, but the preparedness of Scotland for the next wildfire season, I would be grateful if you could provide an update on the progress and timescales of these reviews.

In particular, can you please confirm:

- the anticipated timescale for completion of the multi-agency review and debrief
- the anticipated timescale for completion of the review of the strategic action plan on wildfires

Contact: Rural Affairs Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.
Email rural.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

- if the above are in addition to or overlap with the independently facilitated review of the Cairngorms incident referred to in a [Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's news release](#)
- how stakeholders, including local communities, land managers, businesses, volunteers and emergency responders, are being involved in the review process
- when the Scottish Government expects to publish the findings and any resulting actions

In addition to the Rural Affairs Committee's interest in these matters, and following the work by our predecessor Rural Affairs and Islands Committee at the end of Session 6, preparedness and response to wildfires may be of interest to several Scottish Parliament committees, including the Criminal Justice and Climate Action committees. As such, I am copying the conveners to these committees into this letter and would be grateful if you could also do so when you respond.

I would welcome a response by **Monday 28 September**.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener