

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



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Graeme Dey
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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12 April 2017

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2017 regarding the publication of the fourth Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Report to the Scottish Parliament for 2014-2016. I am grateful for the Committee's continuing interest in biodiversity.

The Report has been prepared by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and is currently being finalised. The Scottish Government will lay this before the Scottish Parliament shortly and the document will be published on the Biodiversity Scotland website. This website is maintained by SNH and is a central resource for all matters relating to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Route Map to 2020. I will write again to notify the Committee when the Report is being laid and published.

I agree with you that it is important to maintain and monitor progress with delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the Route Map to 2020, hence the arrangements we have put in place for regular reporting by SNH. I note your suggestion that there could be a statement or a debate on the latest three-year Report but there was a Government debate on biodiversity just last month and I am sure that there will be other similar opportunities in the coming year for the Scottish Parliament or the Committee to consider progress on the biodiversity agenda. I would, of course, be happy to discuss the Report and wider biodiversity issues with the Committee following publication if you wish.

Yours

Roseanna

ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM