27 November 2017

Dear Graeme,

I am writing to inform you of a recent legislation consolidation exercise undertaken by the UK Government. The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 consolidate The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 as amended, and will take effect on 30 November 2017. These Regulations transpose the EU Wild Birds and Habitats Directives in the offshore waters around Scotland.

Under the 2007 Regulations the Scottish Ministers have executive devolution of certain functions in the marine environment since 2010. The consolidation exercise has had no effect on these powers. I can confirm that the UK Government consulted the Scottish Government in the process of developing the new Regulations.

I have written separately to the convenor of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee to advise of this consolidation exercise.

Yours,

Roseanna Cunningham