Dear Roseanna,

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee request for update on Scottish Government progress on key issues

At its meeting of 1 May the Committee considered its work programme and agreed to write to you seeking a progress update on key issues within the remit of the Committee. A list of those issues is included in the annexe to this letter and I will be writing separately on petition PE1490 on the control of wild goose numbers.

The Committee is holding a business planning meeting in mid-June and would therefore welcome a response to the issues raised by 30 May.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
Progress update and next steps

Environment

Biodiversity 2020
- Progress, areas of concern around targets, actions to address the concerns
- The remit of the RAFE Delivery Board (The most recent update from the Scottish Government was in June 2017)
- Progress in the 13 Ecosystem health indicators
- Progress in meeting the AICHI targets

Re-introduction of Beavers
- Progress in the development of the management approach
- The proposed legislative procedure - affirmative or negative instrument and likely laying date

Deer Management
- Progress in action to meet the recommendations in the ECCLR Committee report of March 2017, including progress of the working group

Goose Management
- Addressed in separate correspondence

Land Use Strategy
- Progress in implementation of the Land Use Strategy

Upland Management
- Scottish Government response to and action following the SNH report on upland management

Management of Grouse Moors
- Progress in addressing the issues in the management of grouse moors including those raised in the petition calling on a licensing system for gamebird hunting (PE1615)

Raptor Persecution
- View of the Scottish Government on the need to set up a national register of tagged birds

Hunting with Dogs
- Update on the work of the stakeholder group looking at a code of practice on hunting and a new hunt monitoring scheme
- Progress in the consultation on the recommendations of Lord Bonomy

Wildlife Crime
- Plans to implement Poustie recommendations on penalties

Animal Welfare
- Plans to address the need for further legislation following 10 May 2017 correspondence:
• Plans to introduce regulations to require the registration and licensing of animal sanctuaries, rescue centres and rehoming activities
• Plans to review the dealing and breeding of cats, dogs and rabbits (registration and licensing requirements)
• Electronic training collars – plans to consult the Committee (24 January 2018 correspondence) and stakeholders

Marine Environment
• Expected new MPAs – plans for further consultation and introduction
• Progress in implementation of the pilots of the regional marine planning areas, including Orkney
• Scottish Government involvement in the UK assessment of progress towards achieving “good environmental status”
• Timing and scope of the expected consultation on priority marine features including proposals

Wild fisheries/Salmon farming
• Plans to address the concerns of the Committee highlighted in its recent report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming
• Scope and timing of legislation, plans for further consultation

Waste and the Circular Economy
• Update on progress on the advisory group on fiscal levers to change behaviours on waste and the consultation process
• How the issues raised in the petition calling for single use cups to be biodegradable (PE1636) are being taken into account
• Issues to be addressed by the forthcoming legislation and likely introduction timeframe
• Plans to introduce secondary legislation banning the sale and manufacture of cotton buds
• Plans to introduce secondary legislation on microbeads (anticipated before summer recess to tie in with uniform roll out across the UK)

Climate Change

Climate Change Plan
• Plans to establish a monitoring and evaluation and reporting framework and integrate this with the Scottish Government Budget process
• Plans to update the Plan following the passage of the Climate Change Bill (CS described this as mandatory in evidence to the Committee)
• Update on planned work on next Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Adaptation Plan
• Plans for review and update

Public Sector Leadership
• Update on the work of Ingage on public sector climate leadership

Public Sector Duties
• Views on the most recent results of the reports which were published in January and plans for further work
**Land Reform**

- Plans to introduce legislation to set up the Register of Controlling Interests in Land
- Progress in the valuation of shooting interests