Dear Calum,

Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Bill

In advance of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee first evidence session on the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Bill at which you have kindly agreed to give evidence, the Committee has agreed to write to you outlining a number of issues on which it would like information in advance.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to the issues highlighted in the annexe to the letter by 11 June 2018.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this letter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
ANNEXE A

SCOPE

- Were other parts of the 2009 Act reviewed for inclusion in the consultation?
- What are the stakeholder views on the scope?
- When is the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report due and how will this impact on the passage of the Bill?
- How does the Scottish Government intend to implement its commitment to create a Just Transition Commission, and why is this not included on the face of the Bill?
- What are the current requirements of, or what information does the Scottish Government currently receive from, the private sector in terms of its climate change mitigation activities

PART ONE – EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TARGETS

Section 1 – Net Zero Emissions Target

- A1(3)(b) – what is the “extent to which” the target setting criteria have been considered”? Is it envisaged this would be consistent throughout reports?
- A1(3)(c) – Does this mean the reasons why it is not consistent with the advice or the reasons why the Government are choosing to do so despite the advice?
- A1(5) – What are the circumstances in which you might do this?

Section 3 – Interim Targets

- Will the interim targets also be expressed in megatonnes of carbon?
- The Committee requests a note of the annual targets in percentages and megatonnes of carbon.

Section 6 – Duty to seek advice from the relevant body

- Will an inventory change ever suggest an exceeded a target? Will it only ever identify further sources of carbon?
  - If so, do the targets take into account the fact they might find more?
  - If not, would that represent a bonus (forestry example from the CCP draft to final)

Section 9 – Annual Targets – 2021 – 2049

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the approach to rounding up and down?
- Is tonnes of carbon not a more consistent measurement (as stated in the 2015 report on emissions?)
Section 10 - Annual Targets 2017, 18 and 19

- The Committee requests the figures for these new proposals in megatonnes for comparison with the current regulations.

Section 12 – Publication of the targets

- What is the purpose of publication of a list of targets?

PART TWO – EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING

Section 13 – Net Emissions Account – Restrictions on the use of carbon accounting

- Are there costs associated with the potential to purchase carbon credits?

PART THREE – ANNUAL REPORTING CYCLE

Section 16 – Reports on emissions reduction targets

- Has the requirement to explain how domestic effort contributed been omitted?
  - If so, why?
  - What is the impact of this?
- What does “amount” mean – percent or tonnes?

Section 18 – Provision of further information

- Will there still be reports on all the same elements elsewhere?
- What is the justification behind removing the requirement to report on these elements?

Section 19 – Climate Change Plans

- What percentage of respondents thought that the time available for the CCP should be 60 to 120 days and what percentage considered that it should be open ended?
- Are the statistics for the figures used in the draft plan available (2017 figures)?

PART FOUR – CONSEQUENTIAL

- Why are the reporting requirements in sections 38 – 41 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (electricity consumption) being removed?
- Will reporting on these elements take place elsewhere?

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

- The Committee requests detail of analysis the Scottish Government has done to arrive at indirect costs from the Bill of £13 billion?
- Please provide the Committee with all costs associated with the policies and proposals in the most recent Climate Change Plan.
• What are the costings of *not* acting to increase climate change mitigation targets?