

11 September 2018

Gillian Martin MSP  
M5.08  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Gillian

I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Convener of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee. I too am relatively new in post, having been with Crown Estate Scotland since April this year, and very much hope to build a positive working relationship with you and all the members of the Committee over the months to come.

I am conscious of the complexities relating to the Scottish Crown Estate Bill and want to offer the assistance of myself and my team in terms of providing information and background as the process unfolds.

Since the devolution of Crown assets and creation of Crown Estate Scotland, the team here have worked to provide a high quality of tenant service and to manage the assets in a way that benefits Scotland more widely.

Some of our key recent projects which may be of interest to you:

- Our **£4.5 million rural investment programme** to support our farming tenants in developing and diversifying their businesses through improved facilities and infrastructure.
- Our **Local Pilots Scheme**, designed to enable community bodies and local authorities to directly manage Crown land and property in their area to deliver sustainable development.
- The **Natural Capital Protocol trial** on Crown Estate Scotland estates and farms to help better define the value of natural assets. This trial has helped show potential paths towards this which allow our farming tenants to better measure the value of their business, not only to them but to the wider community.
- Draft proposals for **new offshore wind leasing**, which have been the subject of early and intensive consultation and engagement. The final approach to leasing, which we aim to launch by early 2019, will be designed to encourage a new generation of offshore wind projects in Scotland's waters.
- Our jointly funded **Shellfish Critical Mass Project** has explored if collaborative investment and infrastructure can help the Scottish shellfish

sector grow, develop and become a world leader. Stage two of this study will be announced shortly in conjunction with The Scottish Government.

This provides just a snapshot and our first annual report will provide an in-depth overview of our activity, financial performance, and corporate objectives.

Finally, I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you if that would be helpful in your new role. If that would be of assistance, my colleague Lisa ([REDACTED]) will be happy to liaise to find a date and time that suits you.

In the meantime, if you require any further assistance or information then please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Simon Hodge  
**Chief Executive**  
**Crown Estate Scotland (Interim Management)**