



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By email only

**Lorna Slater MSP
Minister for Green Skills, Circular
Economy and Biodiversity**

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot

25 April 2022

Dear Minister,

Translocate Protected Beavers to Reduce Licensed Killing (PE1815)

At its [meeting on 15 March 2022](#), the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee considered the above petition following recent updates from the petitioner and exchanges of correspondence after the first consideration of the petition on 30 November 2021.

Members agreed to seek further information from the Scottish Government and NatureScot on issues raised in their responses. [Read the Official report for the meeting on 15 March 2022.](#)

In your letter of 18 January 2022, you stated that “in order to provide time to adjust to the change in policy, any additional funding required in the 2021/22 financial year for the translocation of beavers can be provided by the Scottish Government if necessary.”

We would welcome details of the amount of funding provided and what funding needs have been identified for 2022/23.

We understand a bill on agriculture is likely to be introduced later in Session 6 and its main purpose will be to establish post-Brexit rural support schemes with management and payment models for the schemes yet to be defined.

Some of the possible payment models to choose from could see farmers and crofters receive money for facilitating or restoring ecosystems to function properly. This type of model fits with what the petitioner, Trees for Life, have told the Committee they think should be implemented. They stated in a recent letter to the Committee that “a holistic approach to beaver management needs

to include provision for farmers to secure meaningful income from providing wildlife habitat along our riverbanks”.

We would welcome your views on whether payments for ecosystem services or other positive incentives to reward ecosystem restoration, for example, through beaver management, could be considered as part of new rural support system proposed under the new bill.

I have written to the Convener of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee about the same matter.

We would appreciate a response by 23 May 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Lockhart', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Dean Lockhart MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee