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Dean Lockhart MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Your ref: Translocate Protected Beavers to Reduce Licensed Killing (PE1815)

25 May 2022

Dear Dean

Please find responses below to your request for further information in relation to PE1815 Translocate Protected Beavers to Reduce Licensed Killing.

From the outset please be advised that in 2021/22 no additional funding was required by NatureScot from the Scottish Government in order to translocate Beavers as all funding requirements were completed through NatureScot's allocated funding.

Further questions posed to the Scottish Government:

- *The Committee would welcome details of the amount of funding provided and what funding needs have been identified for 2022/23*

In regards to financial year 2022/23, NatureScot published interim guidance in February this year which sets out that they will provide financial assistance with the practical implementation of projects which includes the trapping, transportation, captive care and health screening of animals in addition to mitigation works at release sites. NatureScot will also support the strategic assessment of environmental impacts in new catchments. They have secured an internal allocation for this work and NatureScot are not anticipating that funding constraints will present a barrier to such projects being supported this year.

- *The Committee would welcome 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.*

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The Agriculture Bill, will be brought forward in 2023 to provide a replacement for the EU Common Agricultural Policy. This will deliver on the Scottish Government's [Vision for Agriculture](#) which was published in March.

The Vision outlines our aim to transform how we support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. It states that Scotland will have a support framework that delivers high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration.

Work is ongoing to promote the use of incentives currently available that support land use changes that deliver both wider benefits and will help land managers to live alongside beavers; to identify barriers to uptake and to explore how such measures can be made more accessible/effective as we develop the future agri-environment schemes.

We will welcome all stakeholder feedback to the consultation which will inform the introduction of a Scottish Agriculture Bill in 2023.

Kind regards

LORNA SLATER

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