

**Jim Martin**  
**Chair**  
**Environmental Standards Scotland**  
**Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba**

**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**Standards Scotland**  
**Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba**

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

6 December 2023

Dear Mr Mountain,

In March 2023, Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) completed an investigation into the support for Scottish local authorities in the delivery of their climate change duties. The main finding of the investigation is that measures should be taken by Scottish Ministers to strengthen the effectiveness of duties contained within sections 44 to 52 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The body under investigation was the Scottish Government. ESS made five recommendations to the Scottish Government, and was able to achieve informal resolution of four of these. ESS did not achieve informal resolution of one recommendation to the Scottish Government.

Given the importance of complying with climate legislation, ESS has issued its findings in the form of an [improvement report](#). In accordance with the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 ('the Continuity Act'), a copy of the improvement report has been laid in the Scottish Parliament, sent to Scottish Ministers and published on ESS' website.

Under section 30 of the Continuity Act, the Scottish Ministers must now prepare an improvement plan and lay it before the Parliament, setting out what they propose to do in

**Environmental Standards Scotland**  
[enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot](mailto:enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot)  
Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD  
0808 1964000

response to the recommendations within the improvement report. If we are able to support the Committee in any way with regard to our findings, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Martin  
Chair, Environmental Standards Scotland