



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Màiri McAllan MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing
Economy, Net Zero and Energy
Scottish Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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28 February 2024

Dear Màiri,

Congratulations on your now expanded Cabinet role.

Climate change governance arrangements of the Scottish Government and related issues

I am sorry to have had to postpone the proposed evidence session on the above, scheduled for 20 February, owing to pressures of Committee business, and thank you for your patience while we sought a different date for this session. I am now pleased to invite you and Ms Berge, Director of Energy and Climate Change, to give evidence on this matter on 16 April.

To help the Committee prepare for this session, and to make best use of the time we have to put questions to you, I am writing in advance to request the following information.

Climate Change Plan

We await confirmation of when the next draft Climate Change Plan will be published, following the decision to postpone publication in November 2023. In your [19 December 2023 letter](#) to the Conveners Group you said the 'legal deadline for laying a draft of our Plan is not until the latter part of 2024'. I would be grateful if you could update the Committee in advance of the meeting as to what the proposed laying date for the draft now is. It would also be helpful if you were able to explain the reasons for laying continuing to be delayed.

Auditor General and Audit Scotland report

The Committee will hear from the Auditor General for Scotland on 12 March. This session will focus on the findings of the April 2023 Audit Scotland report, '[How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals](#)'. I note that the Public Audit Committee took evidence on this report from the Auditor General in May last year and then from the Scottish Government in September. That Committee then [wrote to the NZET Committee in November, drawing our attention to this scrutiny](#). The letter made these recommendations in relation to the Scottish Government's climate change governance:

- further developing governance arrangements to support adaptations to climate change;

- work to further strengthen cross-government collaboration through climate change governance arrangements and to do so transparently;
- to develop its climate change risk management arrangements;
- to continue to actively promote the support available to ensure maximum public participation in schemes to help achieve its ambitious net zero targets.
- specific steps that have been taken to ensure that it has the workforce capacity and capability to deliver its climate change commitments in all Scottish Government directorates.

It would be helpful if you could provide the NZET Committee with an update on what work the Scottish Government and its agencies have done to strengthen climate change governance, in the light of Audit Scotland's report and the Public Audit Committee's letter to us.

COP28 – Scottish Government outcomes

A matter we expect to raise with you at the evidence session is outcomes for Scotland from the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, including outcomes from the Global Stocktake agreement reached by participants. The [Scottish Government has committed to](#) 'proactively release a report on COP28, setting out what was achieved, who went, what they did and how much it cost.' I would be grateful if you could clarify whether this report has been published and, if not, when we can expect to see it. If it will not be published in good time before 16 April, I would be grateful if you could provide in your reply a summary of the main conclusions you expect to be set out in the report.

Cross-party discussions on climate change

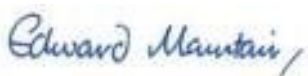
In early February, the First Minister convened a '[cross-party discussion on Scotland's climate change ambitions](#)'. Could you please provide the Committee with some more information on what was discussed at this meeting, including any minutes or other formal documentation arising from the discussion? Are there plans for further cross-party discussions on climate change and, if so, what is the object of these further discussions?

Climate Change Committee

Finally, I refer to your [letter to the NZET Committee of 18 December 2023](#), responding to an enquiry about the Scottish Government commitment to helping set up a Climate Change Committee office in Scotland. You said consideration of this was 'ongoing'. I would welcome you updating the Committee on this matter. It would also be helpful if you could detail what use the Scottish Government has made of the CCC's expertise and resources in developing the next draft of the Climate Change Plan and how the Scottish Government uses CCC Progress reports for Scotland for its own relevant policy development.

I would be grateful for a response by 27 March 2024, and, on behalf of the Committee, I look forward to our discussion with you.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Mountain MSP
Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee