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Our Reference: 202500463223

Your Reference: Letter to FM on inclusive environmental policy in Scotland

13 May 2025

Dear Shivali,

Thank you for your letter to the First Minister of 24 April 2025 setting out the recommendations from the Everyone's Environment project. As the responsible Cabinet Secretary, I am responding on behalf of the Scottish Government.

I would like to thank you for sharing information on this project, and I appreciate the input from the charities that have collaborated on this work to understand the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged groups and how these relate to environmental policy.

The Scottish Government recently published our Programme for Government for 2025-26. As the First Minister stated in his introduction, this sets out bold measures to eradicate child poverty, build a stronger economy, renew the NHS, reduce pressure on family finances and take effective climate action.

The First Minister set out how delivering for the people of Scotland is about policy choices and also about how we govern. He set out his intention to continue to lead a government that brings people together, because he believes that the most effective solutions emerge when we work together. The Scottish Government will seek to empower people and communities, brought together to in common purpose to improve the lives of our people.

For environmental policy, the Programme for Government set out how we are working hard to address the twin crises of climate change and nature loss – the devastating consequences of which are playing out at home and abroad, including in the damaging wildfires and floods that we have recently witnessed in Scotland. It is more important than ever that we embrace and champion the green revolution to

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improve the lives of current and future generations, both here and overseas.

Our transition to a net zero, nature positive future creates opportunities, and must be achieved in a way that represents a just transition. This is why we have created the most generous concessionary travel scheme in the UK, where over 2.3 million cardholders benefit from free bus travel. It is also why we have continued to offer some of the most generous grants and loans in the UK to support clean heating and energy efficiency, including up to £15,000 grants through our Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme. Scotland's green industrial revolution will support a growing economy, provide quality jobs and support our current industry in the just transition to a net zero future.

The Scottish Government is continuing to develop our proposals for a future Scottish Human Rights Bill, including our approach to the human right to a healthy environment. This will support the actions we are already taking to improve people's lives.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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