

24 September 2018

Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Scottish Government

St Andrew’s House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy – meeting the targets**

We are writing to you about the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy published in 2015 and continued lack of progress in this field.

Since its publication, Scottish Environment LINK has been very supportive of the Strategy’s intent and ambition. Indeed, LINK offered two representatives to serve on the Cleaner Air for Scotland Governance Group (CAFSGG) when it was created to support implementation of the strategy. From the outset, our representatives strived to clarify its precise remit, to ensure good management practices, and to argue for necessary programme management support.

As you will be aware, we felt we were only marginally successful in most instances and we became increasingly concerned that the CAFSGG was destined to fail. In March 2018, LINK could no longer lend its good name to the initiative, resigned from the Group and withdrew its two representatives, Emilia Hanna and James Curran. The culmination of our frustration was the announcement of the low emission zone for Glasgow which we felt did not, in any sense, reflect the aspiration and ambition of the Government’s strategy. We have learnt that this weak proposal has subsequently been even further eroded.

We remain entirely supportive of the Scottish Government’s commitment to meet European air quality standards in 2020, as stated in the strategy, although it would appear now to be a supremely challenging task. You will be aware that the failure of the UK to deliver the European Directive’s standards is already being considered by the European Court of Justice.

We would very much like to meet with you to discuss these issues. We feel that our insights on the limitations of the CAFSGG structures and delivery mechanisms require urgent attention if we are to meet the Strategy’s ambitions and we would appreciate the opportunity to explore in what ways the environmental movement may be able to provide assistance in driving more rapid progress with the Scottish Government’s strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Jen Anderson
Chief Officer

Copy: Mr Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity

 Ms Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment