

Minister for Environment and Land Reform  
Ministear airson Àrainneachd agus Ath-leasachadh  
Fearainn  
Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000  
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Dr Deborah Long  
dan@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202200294803  
Your Reference: From Rhetoric to Reality

12 May 2022

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April to the First Minister, highlighting publication of Scottish Environment LINK's *From Rhetoric to Reality: Revisited* report. I am responding in light of the close connection with my portfolio responsibilities, alongside those of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport and the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity.

I welcome the publication of the report, and the valuable analysis and recommendations it sets out. The Scottish Government is committed to playing Scotland's full role in tackling the twin climate and nature crises – and, crucially, to ensuring that we rise to the challenges of delivering on our high level of ambition. I welcome the important insights on these challenges set out in the report.

As you'll know, the Scottish Government recently published a [report](#) to Parliament on progress in developing the Environment Strategy for Scotland. As well as setting out examples of many areas of progress in policy and delivery across government, the report also highlighted key strategic challenges and areas for future action. These will be explored further as we take forward next steps on the Environment Strategy, including the development of 'pathways' for achieving the strategy's vision and outcomes. I look forward to continuing to work closely with SE LINK as we take this forward, and am grateful for the constructive recommendations set out in the *From Rhetoric to Reality: Revisited* report.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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Yours sincerely



**MAIRI MCALLAN**

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