



Scottish
Environment
LINK

Dolphin House
4 Hunter Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1QW

T: 0131 225 4345
E: information@scotlink.org
W: www.scotlink.org

Ian Murray MP
Scotland Office
Dover House
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AU

18 July 2024

Dear Ian Murray MP,

Re: Welcome from Scottish Environment LINK

On behalf of Scottish Environment LINK, I would like to extend our congratulations on your recent appointment as Scotland Secretary.

We are in a nature emergency. Scotland has suffered a high historic level of nature loss, and in the context of climate change we face even greater risks today. We have lost more of our natural biodiversity than most other countries, and today average species abundance and distribution continue to decline, with 1 in 9 species at risk of national extinction. As a network of environmental organisations, we believe that there is a fundamental and moral imperative to save nature and the diverse ecosystems that support all life.

As you assume your new role, we would like to highlight some key areas of shared interest:

1. Working together

Scottish Environment LINK has a membership of over 40 environmental organisations with a combined supporter base of more than 500,000. 92% of people in Scotland say that the natural environment is important to them personally, according to a [poll](#) commissioned by LINK.

We are eager to work closely with you and your office to ensure reserved policy and legislation addresses both local and national environmental challenges effectively. LINK is crucial for fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and driving impactful conservation efforts across Scotland. Our collective supporter base allows LINK to strengthen public engagement and advocacy for environmental policies.

2. Four-Country Working

Environmental issues do not recognise borders. Coordinated efforts between Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland ensure comprehensive and cohesive strategies for tackling cross-border environmental challenges. While the environment is a devolved area, there must be a strategic, joined up approach, ensuring that sub-national and national actions will meet shared challenges and achieve common goals.

3. Internal Market Act

The Internal Market Act causes particular concern to all four LINK networks. We believe the specifics of this legislation are causing unintended negative consequences for policymaking across the UK, especially regarding goods with environmental impacts.

The Act has undermined the ability of the devolved institutions to operate in areas which were clearly not reserved under the 1990s Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Acts, and their successors. To secure the fairness and access principles throughout the UK, we urge the UK Government to consider a review of the Internal Market Act's operation.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities further and explore ways in which we can work collaboratively.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Long

Chief Officer

Scottish Environment LINK



Registered office: 5 Atholl Place, Perth, PH1 5NE. A Scottish Charity No. SC000296

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by Guarantee and without a share capital under Company no. SC250899

