

Protecting Scotland's wildlife for the future

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
31 Minto Street
Edinburgh
EH9 2BT

Via email

16 December 2024



Dear Secretary of State for Scotland,

Oppose employer National Insurance increases for the voluntary sector

As you'll be aware, tomorrow – on Tuesday 17 December – the House of Commons will consider the National Insurance Contributions Bill.

As a charity and a significant employer, including in rural parts of Scotland, the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be heavily impacted by these changes. I have concerns regarding the burden these additional contributions will place on the voluntary sector.

While we don't oppose the increase of National Insurance contributions in principle, we are concerned about the particular impact this will have on charitable organisations' ability to delivery public benefits. Given the challenging financial context already facing the voluntary sector, any increase in costs will be hard for sector employers to meet.

I'm aware that this issue was raised with the Chancellor ahead of the budget, and that there has been lobbying at both the UK and Scottish Government to ensure mitigations are put in place to minimise the impact on voluntary organisations. However, I wanted to let you know specifically the impact that this may have in Scotland, and in particular the delivery of nature conservation objectives. Therefore, I am supportive of a potential exemption for charitable organisations, as per the campaign by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

That's why, ahead of tomorrow, I'm asking for you to support measures that would ensure voluntary organisations are not out of pocket – through exemption, remuneration, or other means.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Pike

Chief Executive

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